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Too little foresight

3 Kurds die at Berlin consulate

ANALYSIS

Ehud Barak, a former chief of General Staff, misses no opportunity to hammer home the point that his military past endows him with strategic thinking, the ability to anticipate the moves of others and to prudently calculate his own. Much of Barak's claim to lead the nation rests on this.

However, the sordid Adisu Massala episode could have been easily avoided had Barak indeed evinced tactical foresight. He should have never allowed a head-on clash between Ethiopian and Russian immigrants. Once Massala was bent on running, thought should have been given to perhaps allowing more than one immigrant on the list or to reserving slots for none.

During the primaries campaign, Barak did his utmost to foil the Ethiopian Massala, while losing no chance to call on the voters to back Russian Sofa Landver. The reason is obvious. The Ethiopian vote is negligible and counted in the thousands. Russian-speakers, however, number almost a million. It doesn't pay to have an Ethiopian on the list — certainly not at a Russian's expense.

But Barak's conduct of his performance, as directed by James Carville, hoping the problems would go away.

It didn't. The primaries' final results only brought things to a head. Though they were available at 9 a.m. Tuesday, they were not made public. The idea was to maintain suspense, even if artificial, till the prime-time, live show from the Labor central committee. It was to be a grand unpaid infomercial.

How the expert strategist managed not to expect an explosion that evening boggles the mind. Barak should have released the results right away and instead of meeting with Massala after sundown, he should have tried to calm him early in the day. At worst, he would have failed and taken some flack in the morning, but that would have soon dissipated. Instead, Barak left the confrontation for a live prime-time telecast. His major concern seemed to be the TV ratings, instead of the unforgivable fare to which the viewing public was about to be treated.

The issue, has nothing to do with what actually happened at the central committee and whether Barak should have allowed Massala to have his say. To dwell on that, as Barak and his spokesmen seek to, is to divert attention from Barak's refusal to deal with the mess till nightfall, rendering the disaster on live TV inevitable.

Barak should have known that besides blue-and-white balloons and red roses, he was bringing a primed grenade into the auditorium. It matters little if the grenade went off after being deliberately hurled or if it was just allowed to fall. The explosion occurred.

As a former battlefield commander, Barak should have made it his business to know his troops. He had been acquainted with Massala for a number of years and should not have been taken back at the last minute by his temper or toughness. Barak should have realized precisely with whom he was dealing.

He should have never allowed himself and his Labor cronies to beam with self-congratulation and toss-patlions, while someone was expressing his anguish before the cameras. He and Labor's well-dressed, self-satisfied higher-ups looked haughty and arrogant even as they condemned Massala's behavior.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2



German police arrest a Kurdish protester outside the Israeli Consulate in Berlin yesterday. (AP)

Why the Kurds blame Israel

The wrath of the Kurds amid persistent accusations that Israel helped Turkey track down Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, whether true or not, is the price Israel has to pay for its blossoming defense alliance with Ankara, experts say.

Try as it might, Israel cannot shake loose the impression among the Kurds that it helped lead Turkish commandos in Kenya to their charismatic leader. Ocalan himself said in a recent interview with the London-based *Jane's Defense Weekly* that he believed the Mossad was tracking his movements on behalf of Turkish intelligence.

On October 13, OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Amos Malka told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Ocalan had left his Syrian headquarters and had showed up in Russia.

Six days later, the Turkish prime minister announced this information, saying a "foreign security service" helped locate Ocalan. He did not name the country.

"It was clear from that moment

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the Kurds were looking at us differently," said Alon Liel, a former top diplomat in Ankara and expert on Turkey.

"For months I have warned that the alliance with Turkey has presented Israel with red lines. We have married a bride with a problematic family. I am not against friendly relations with Turkey, but we have to know the problems it causes," said Liel.

Four times at his press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu denied that Israel helped in the capture of Ocalan. But this is not expected to change the impression among the Kurds that Israel's defense establishment helped track down the PKK leader.

A Kurdish rebel leader told Israel Radio yesterday that the Mossad gave Turkey the information that helped its commandos locate and capture Ocalan, also

known as "Apo." Speaking before the assault on the Berlin consulate, the rebel leader said they have no intention of attacking Israeli targets.

Yet Ocalan's PKK said the assault on Israel's consulate in Berlin was the result of a "dirty war" conducted by Turkey and its ally Israel on the Kurds. "The incident in Berlin... is an example and result of this alliance founded on this dirty war," PKK spokeswoman Mizgin Sen told the Belgium-based Kurdish Med TV channel.

The security agreement signed with Israel in 1996 provides for intelligence cooperation. Israel is also selling Turkey's powerful armed forces materiel including night vision equipment as well as anti-rocket systems employed in helicopters.

Liel said that it was not difficult for the Kurdish rebels to see the "great romance" developing between Turkey and Israel, with such Israeli weapons and technology flowing to Turkey.

See KURDS, Page 2

Israeli guards shoot after protesters storm building

By DANNA HARMAN

Israeli embassies throughout Europe closed yesterday and diplomats went on alert for escalating Kurdish violence, following the killing of three Kurdish protesters who stormed the Israeli Consulate in Berlin.

Israeli security guards shot and killed the three Kurds after they, together with some 100 other demonstrators, forced their way into the compound to protest against reports the Mossad had aided in the arrest of PKK rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Brandishing clubs, hammers, and iron bars, the Kurdish demonstrators pummeled their way past some 30 Berlin police officers — who had arrived on the scene only half an hour earlier after receiving reports that Kurds planned to take over the building.

The Kurds climbed over a fence surrounding the four-story white structure, broke through the door, and smashed second-floor windows. Nine Kurds barricaded themselves inside one room, briefly taking the wife of a consulate worker hostage.

The Foreign Ministry has not given permission for the woman, identified as Ruth Ya'acov from Jerusalem, to talk to the press.

Over 43 people were injured — at least 16 demonstrators and 27 police officers. Two of the dead, a man and a woman, were shot in the consulate's foyer; another man was shot in a stairwell. Police said they arrested 180 Kurds, 45 at the consulate and the remainder at demonstrations after the shootings.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon ordered an immediate investigation into the events, but fully defended the response of the Israeli security men, saying "there is no room for compromise when it comes to terror, and Israel is completely correct in fighting terror with all its strength."

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur, together with a team of officials from the ministry, left yesterday on a special flight to Berlin in order, according to a ministry statement, "to carry out high-level discussions with German authorities."

Miriam Shomrat, the consul in Berlin, who was not in the building at the time, said the attack had taken everyone by surprise. "We were aware that the Kurds had barged into the Greek Embassy, but we never thought they would attack us. We have no bone to pick with the Kurds, we are unconnected to the Ocalan events," said Shomrat.

US issues travel warning, Page 2

Ambassador to Germany Avi Primor expressed sorrow over the events and criticized the German police for not being adequately prepared for such an event. "They simply did not do enough," he told Israel Radio.

Foreign Ministry sources, however, point out that instructions had been sent to Israel's consulates and embassies Monday calling for security to be tightened, but not for the coordination with host countries to be increased.

"This was a major failure," said one source, "because if we had coordinated better with the German security outside the consulate, and if we had only told them that we were on high alert earlier — we may well have avoided the whole thing."

Alon Liel, formally Israel's charge d'affaires in Turkey, said it seems there were both security and judgment lapses of some sort.

"We now have a problem here, without any connection to whether we were or were not involved in the capture of Ocalan to begin with. It is very likely that there are going to be those who will now say our fingers were light on the trigger," said Liel, who added that, "for 25 years there has not been such an

event at any Israel mission abroad. I find it hard to understand, and I am sure there is going to have to be a thorough investigation."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, like Sharon, said the security guards had acted in self-defense, and warned it would be a mistake for the Kurds to continue targeting Israel. "Our security guards have clear instructions to protect their own lives, protect the lives of Israelis, and also to prevent, if necessary using force, the taking of hostages," Netanyahu told reporters in Tel Aviv yesterday.

"I don't suggest that we judge security people who find themselves facing a violent, masked crowd with hammers," he added. "I think it would be a mistake for the Kurds to target us, as we have no fight with them, and, in the past years at least, they have not had a fight with us," said Netanyahu, who added that he regrets the loss of life and hopes calm will be restored.

Asked how the protesters managed to get inside the embassy compound, Netanyahu said they "charged past the German police, who are responsible for the outer defense of the embassy." Netanyahu said he had discussed the incident with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's national security adviser.

Netanyahu also repeated and stressed that Israel was, in no way, connected to Ocalan's capture. Ocalan was brought to Turkey on Tuesday after being seized outside the Greek Embassy in Kenya.

Meanwhile, Schroeder said Germany would "not tolerate having political conflicts from foreign countries carried over into German streets."

Interior Minister Otto Schily threatened to deport Kurds involved in violent protests, and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer appealed for peace. Germany has more Kurds than any other Western European nation.

News agencies contributed to this report.

Analyst calls for Israeli gestures towards Turkish Kurds

By BEN LYNNFIELD

In the wake of the Berlin shootings, the government should make "humanitarian and political gestures" towards supporters of Abdullah Ocalan to change their perception that Israel is their enemy, according to Ofra Bengio, a specialist on Kurdish and Iraqi politics at Tel Aviv University.

"We need to do something to calm down the tempers, otherwise things will really become unpleasant," Bengio said.

Asked whether Ocalan's supporters might launch terrorist attacks against Israeli targets, Bengio said: "It is possible and it is something we need to take into account."

Israel's alliance with Turkey, the perception that the Mossad helped in Ocalan's capture, and yesterday's death of three Kurds from the gunfire of guards at the Berlin consulate "combine to present us in Kurdish eyes as the enemy," she said.

The fact that Kurds were slain at the consulate and nowhere

else during the wave of protests in Europe reinforces the resentment, she said.

Bengio said the Israeli gestures could include meetings with the families of those killed, meetings with PKK leaders in Berlin and Paris, and statements of regret at the loss of lives, stressing that the shootings were in self-defense.

In the long-run, she said, the government will need to make clear that "despite Israel's ties with Turkey it is not a party to Turkey's conflict with the PKK."

Police deny Sharon probe politically motivated

By ANNE O'SULLIVAN

Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk yesterday denied accusations that the investigation of Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon over obstruction of justice in his Lebanon War libel suit was politically motivated. He noted that the probe was launched some seven months ago, before anyone knew of early elections.

Police are to question Sharon when he returns from the United States, where he is accompanying his wife Lily, who is undergoing medical examinations.

"The decision to begin the investigation was taken last August,

when nobody knew there were going to be elections," Wilk told Israel Radio. He said the investigation is now in its final stages.

Sharon is to be questioned on suspicion that he granted business favors to Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avigdor Ben-Gal to induce him to change his testimony in a libel suit Sharon brought against the *Ha'aretz* newspaper.

The paper wrote that, as defense minister in 1982, he deceived then prime minister Menachem Begin regarding the scope of the Lebanon invasion.



Avigdor Ben-Gal. (David Rubinger)



MK Ariel Sharon (Brian Rensler)

Ben-Gal is also likely to be recalled for further questioning. He spent 11 hours answering

police investigators' questions on Tuesday. He would not return telephone calls or otherwise react to the affair, in which he is suspected of fraud, breach of trust, and obstruction of justice.

Sharon's lawyer, Ya'acov Weinroth, accused *Ha'aretz* of launching a witch hunt against his client. He told Israel Radio he would release material in a day or two that will clear up the whole matter.

Since *Ha'aretz* made its complaint last July, police have quietly questioned dozens of people, including Foreign Ministry and

National Infrastructure Ministry employees. A gag order on the investigation was lifted late Tuesday.

The investigation is concentrating on the visit to Russia by Sharon as national infrastructure minister in June 1997 to examine the purchase of natural gas. Ben-Gal joined him on the visit and later told Israel TV that he went as a private businessman. At the time he was chairman of the board of directors of Israel Aircraft Industries and director-general of Tahal, the water R&D company.

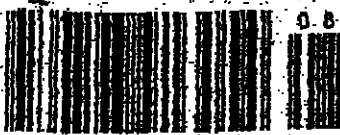
See BEN-GAL, Page 2

Jobless figure up in 1998

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Unemployment for 1998 totaled 8.6 percent of the work force, up from 7.7% in 1997, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. Men without jobs amounted to 8.1%, while 9.2% of women were out of work, the bureau said. Some job growth was reported, particularly in the health and welfare sectors, which expanded by 10.2% over 1997.

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NEWS

in brief

Uzbekistan asks Israel's help against Hizbullah

Uzbeki President Islam Karimov, who barely escaped an attack on his life Tuesday, said yesterday he believed he was targeted by a Hizbullah group.

Speaking by phone to Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, Karimov said that Hizbullah offshoots have penetrated the former Soviet Union and were sprouting up in Uzbekistan as well. Karimov, who has spoken out strongly against fundamentalism in the past, told Sharansky that Israel and Uzbekistan must coordinate efforts against such terror attacks.

Danna Harman

Investigation of cliff destruction demanded

Environment Ministry Director-General Roni Komar is demanding an investigation into the destruction of the soft limestone cliff in Ashkelon. He said yesterday that tractors belonging to Jewish National Fund had destroyed a 200-meter section of the 25-meter high cliff.

Ministry inspectors, together with members of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, managed to stop the work. SPNI officials said that apart from destroying the landscape, the work destroyed the habitat of flora and fauna.

Komar said the cliff is included in a preservation plan because it is one of the last of its type in the country. The damage done is irreparable, he said.

Liat Collins

Knesset to convene next week

The Knesset is to convene in special session on Tuesday for a debate on religious-secular relations, which is to include a discussion of the pro- and anti-Supreme Court demonstrations held Sunday. The government asked for the session during the Knesset recess in order to approve legislation on legalizing Arutz 7, the settlers' pirate radio station, and to extend the kibbutz debt arrangement for another two years. A number of other bills are also to be put to a vote.

Nina Gilbert

Shas's jingle: 'What a Party'

Shas will launch its election campaign next week with a catchy jingle - "What a Party" to the tune of Mizrahi singer Eli Luzon's "What a Country" - and the theme of the importance of maintain the country's Jewish nature.

At the moment it does not look like it will distribute amulets to potential voters, as it has in the past, but it promises other attractions. At the request of Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, party leader Aryeh Deri will continue to head the Knesset faction; Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri will head the election campaign.

Liat Collins

PKK official calls for peaceful action

ANKARA (Reuters) - A senior field commander of Abdullah Ocalan's Kurdish separatist guerrillas yesterday called on Kurds in Europe to refrain from violence in their protests against the capture of their leader.

"Our people must carry out their actions within the democratic framework," Cemil Bayik, whom observers tip as a possible successor to Ocalan, told the Belgium-based Med TV channel in a telephone interview.

"Some of our people are setting fire to themselves. This is definitely not right," Bayik said. "The leadership has banned this kind of action which must be avoided at all costs."

Bayik, at the head of hundreds of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas in northern Iraq, said Ocalan's seizure was the result of a conspiracy led by the United States and backed by Israel.

"Turkey has not got the power to undertake such an operation," he said. "The Turks going to Kenya to snatch the party chairman is just a show, the United States was behind this."

But Bayik said PKK guerrillas were still a force to be reckoned with and asserted his loyalty to the jailed Ocalan.

"Our party's loyalty to the leader is stronger than ever," he said.

Israel once helped the Kurds

The accusations of Israeli involvement in Abdullah Ocalan's arrest - denied by the government - would, if true, not constitute the first foray by Israel into the Kurdish arena.

From 1965-75 Israel helped rebel Kurdish nationalists in Iraq, who were part of a movement that evolved separately and is distinct from that of the Kurdish rebels in Turkey.

The motives for Israel's involvement were threefold, according to Reuven Merhav, former director-general of the foreign ministry: a strategic doctrine that strove for alliances in the periphery of the region with non-Arab nations and groups, including Ethiopia, Iran

and Turkey - having a shared enemy in Iraq, which was Israel's most hard-line Arab opponent - a "genuine human affinity" for the Kurds, based in part on the historic absence of antisemitism in Kurdistan and on assistance rendered during the 1950s by the Kurds in enabling Jews seeking to leave for Israel.

Israel's clandestine relations with the Kurds were not officially acknowledged until prime minister Menachem Begin spoke of them in September 1980, saying Israel had sent military advisers and weapons to Kurdistan, though not military units.

Israeli assistance started out as humanitarian and medical aid,

BACKGROUND

recounts Ofra Bengio, a Tel Aviv University scholar, in her book *The Kurdish Rebellion in Iraq*.

"Gradually, the assistance expanded and began to include the supply of light weaponry and ammunition, and later on more sophisticated weaponry, including anti-tank and anti-aircraft equipment. The supply of weapons was ordinarily carried out by flights over Iranian airspace," she wrote.

Another aspect of the aid consisted of military exercises for Kurdish

fighters. The exercises were carried out within Kurdistan (which necessitated maintaining Israeli personnel there on a permanent basis), in Iran, and (apparently in limited fashion) also in Israel," Bengio wrote.

One of the Israeli advisers in Kurdistan was Rafael Eitan, who visited the area in 1969, she recounted. And, in a footnote to history, one of the senior Iraqi officers seeking to eradicate the Kurdish rebellion was Saddam Hussein, who orchestrated a failed assassination attempt against the Kurdish leader, Mustafa Barzani.

The assistance to the Kurdish insurgents "was all directed through [the Shah's] Iran, with the

assistance of Iran, and the knowledge of the United States," Merhav said.

Thus, the Kurdish rebels found themselves at the mercy of Teheran's changing interests. When Iraq agreed to cede rights on the Shatt al-Arab waterway to Iran in 1975, it demanded in exchange that Iran halt its assistance to the rebels.

With Iran's agreement, Israel's assistance program "was discontinued abruptly, to the great sorrow and grief of the people involved in it," Merhav said. He added that he knows of no official contact since then with the Iraqi Kurds, who, according to Bengio, viewed the cut-off as a betrayal on Israel's part.

Turks hunt Kurdish rebels in Iraq

ANKARA (AP) - Some 2,000 Turkish troops crossed into neighboring Iraq yesterday to hunt down Kurdish rebels in the wake of Turkey's capture of their fugitive leader.

The offensive took place while authorities in the capital of Ankara, began interrogating rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, who was captured in Kenya. Ocalan was captured in a covert operation in Kenya and returned to Turkey to face terrorism charges.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the troops were dispatched Monday after a large group of PKK guerrillas was sighted in the area.

"It is a routine, small-scale operation," the official said. He said the operation was taking place in the northeast corner of Iraq, across from the Turkish border town of Cukurca.

The Turkish military has staged many similar incursions to hunt down the rebels in the past.

The rebels are fighting for autonomy in the southeast of Turkey. The conflict has killed close to 37,000 people.

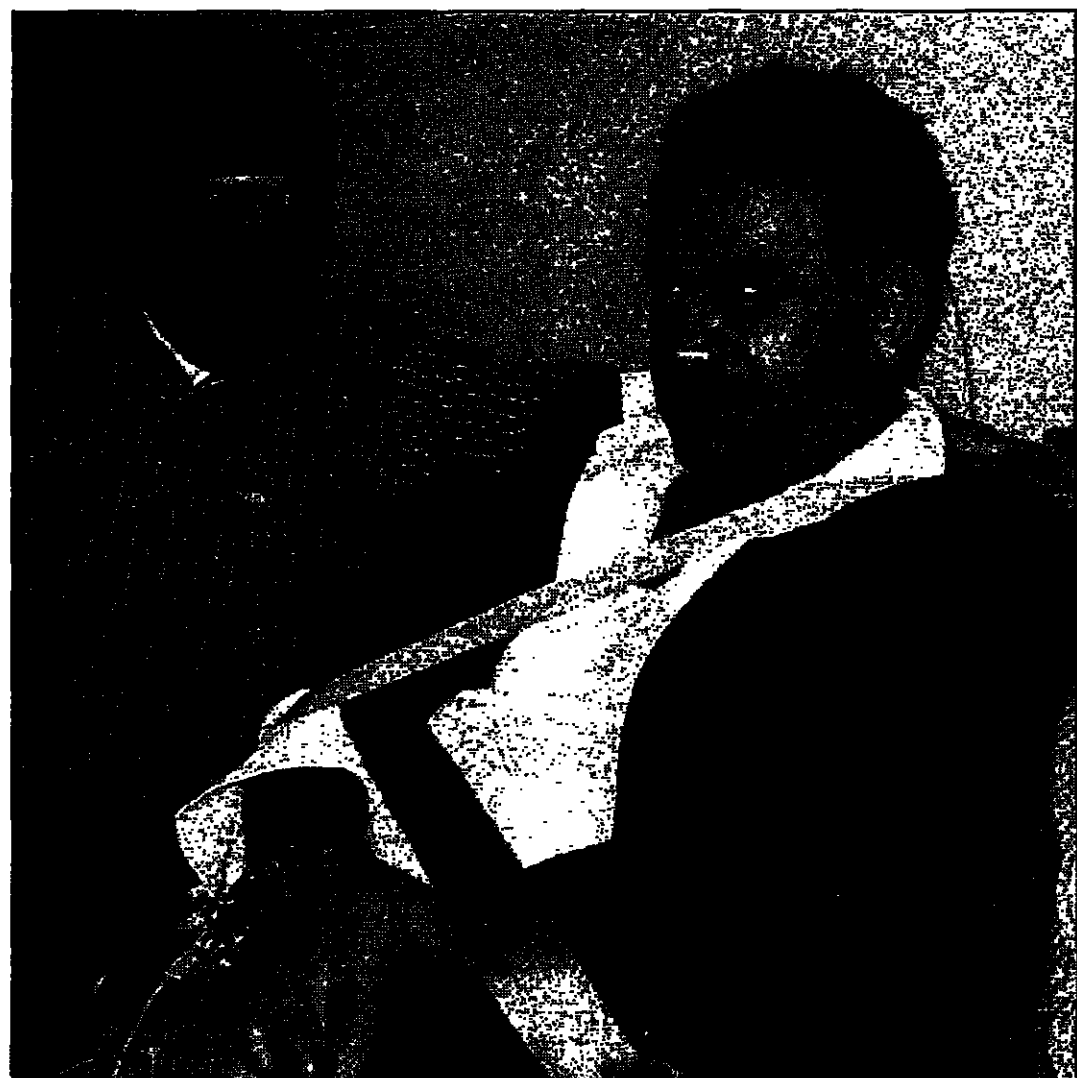
Turkey meanwhile emptied an island prison yesterday to make way for a single, infamous inmate, a man it blames for tens of thousands of deaths.

Some 250 prisoners were cleared off Imrali Island in the Sea of Marmara, the new home of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

"It will be a very secure place for him," Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told CNN.

Ocalan was captured in Kenya Monday by Turkish special forces. Turkey accuses him of causing the deaths of some 37,000 people while leading his Kurdistan Workers Party's 14-year fight for autonomy in the southeast.

Imrali is roughly 55 km south of Istanbul. The Anatolia news agency said frigates and coast guard cutters were patrolling the island yesterday.



Abdullah Ocalan, fugitive chief of the PKK, is handcuffed and guarded by a member of the Turkish Special Forces unit that captured him in Kenya, late Monday aboard an aircraft that carried him to Turkey. The photo was released by the Turkish Intelligence Service MIT yesterday. (AP)

Security was also beefed up in two coastal towns, Bandirma and Mudanya, facing Imrali. Coffeehouses and small stores on the coastline were ordered shut, Anatolia said.

The island made headlines last year with the escape of four

Chechen inmates, who held more than 200 passengers hostage on a ferry in the Black Sea for days to protest Russia's war in Chechnya.

Prison guards were replaced with special teams in Ocalan's honor.

The island has had other famous

"guests." It hosted Premier Adnan Menderes and two of his ministers until they were hanged after the 1960 military coup.

The leftist film director Yilmaz Guney, whose "Yol" won a major award at Cannes, spent time there in the early 1980s.

US issues travel warning

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States issued a global travel warning yesterday and urged Americans to take special security precautions abroad due to the angry reaction to the capture of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

"Greek diplomatic missions and personnel have been subjected to violence and it is possible that this danger may extend to American interests as well," the State Department said in its worldwide travel caution.

The statement said US government personnel and facilities were taking the appropriate security measures following the Kurdish violence in Europe.

Kurd supporters have protested across Europe in response to Ocalan's capture in Kenya on Monday after he was under Greek protection in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

Many of the protests have centered on Greek embassies but three Kurds were shot and killed outside Israel's consulate in Berlin yesterday in the most violent incident so far of the demonstrations.

The State Department said Americans travelling or living abroad should "review their personal security" in light of the Kurdish demonstrations and contact the nearest US embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on security conditions.

The United States has denied any "direct involvement" in the handover of Ocalan to Turkey but acknowledged engaging in "extensive diplomatic efforts" to bring him to justice.

Arife O'Sullivan adds: The Prime Minister's adviser on terrorism, Meir Dagan, has for the time being refrained from issuing any security precautions for citizens traveling abroad, despite yesterday's events in Berlin.

Arafat studying delay on statehood

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has told a group of Palestinians that he is studying whether to postpone plans to declare an independent Palestinian state in May, a member of the group said yesterday.

Qais Abdel-Qarim, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said Arafat told senior DFLP officials on Monday that any delay would be in return for international guarantees of recognition of a future state.

"During the discussion, Abu Ammar [Arafat] referred to some proposals that are being floated to

possibly delay the declaration of the state for a certain period of time in return for American, European and Arab guarantees, such as a conditional delay in return for recognition of the state when it is declared," Abdel-Qarim told Reuters.

"Abu Ammar said the issue of declaration of the state must be studied carefully and that all the elements that affect it should be examined and carefully calculated," he said.

Abdel-Qarim, better known as Abu Laila, is a member of the DFLP politburo and was in the group that met Arafat in the West Bank.

Labor's Yossi Beilin said he had advised Arafat to extend the interim period to January 1, 2000, hoping by then that a new Labor government would be able to conclude a permanent peace settlement.

"If we don't, it doesn't mean that Israel would recognize a Palestinian state if Arafat declares it then," Beilin said.

"I know Arafat prefers to declare a state after he concludes an agreement. He knows that nothing will happen by May so it will be best to delay, and I know it will be a big concession for Arafat," he said.

(Reuters)

PA urging US to pressure Israel on Wye

By MILLE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - A Palestinian Authority delegation was planning to urge Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday to pressure Israel to fulfill its Wye River commitments to redeploy from the West Bank.

Chief PA negotiator Saeb Erekat told a forum of the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine that at the Wye talks, President Bill Clinton "guaranteed" to both sides the US would assure full compliance with the terms of the agreement. As a result, during its two

days of meetings with American officials here, the delegation has hammered home the point that "something should be done about implementation," or Washington's credibility will be damaged, he said.

"With Secretary Albright we usually have very, very candid and frank discussions," Erekat said before heading to the State Department to meet with her last night. "We will not accept, under any circumstances, the Israeli elections being used as a pretext for not implementing the agreement."

Erekat would not specify how the Palestinians expect the US to bring pressure to bear upon Israel, except to say that Washington ought to "deliver the mechanisms that will ensure" that Jerusalem unfreeze the redeployments. The Palestinians have fulfilled all their "one-time" commitments under Wye, he said, but the level of trust with Prime Minister Netanyahu's

government "is below zero."

In the talks that began Monday night, the US and the Palestinians established five steering committees for continuing discussions over expanding American assistance in the areas of investment, trade, infrastructure development, people-to-people exchanges, and economic development, Erekat said.

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

Barak's supercilious grin at the podium, after having allowed Massala, with ostensible magnanimity, to take the floor, only intensified the impression of condescension.

The rights and wrongs matter little here. As Carville stresses to Barak, it's the image that counts. Barak bungled his own clumsy attempts to create a new image for himself and his party. It is this attempt that led him to beg the Sephardim for forgiveness or to replace Labor's name on the ballot with that of his One Israel bloc.

The problem is not Labor's name but in how it is perceived and in efforts to artificially change perceptions overnight. Barak should wonder whether many of the Sephardim he tried to placate didn't come away from his prime-time production convinced that Labor is yet again giving a raw deal to dark-skinned people.

He should also wonder if all this even won him the support of immigrants from the former USSR. They are a sophisticated but also very suspicious lot, whose Soviet experiences have led them to lend an ear to the wildest of conspiracy theories. They may well mistrust the Labor vote no less than Massala, and,

like him, they probably feel insulted.

They might not take to the notion that Landver's presence on the list should send them all flocking in droves to cast their ballots for Barak.

Barak's insistence on Landver as the token immigrant is also curious. She arrived in Israel two decades ago, and, according to Labor's own rules, will not be eligible for immigrant status as of May. Her most memorable moment in the Knesset during this past term was her inability to press the voting button because of over-long fingernails.

But Barak's worst problem is that he angered his own party's

women. He hoped to kill two birds with one Landver. If she took the 19th slot reserved for an immigrant, there would be no need to reserve the next slot for a woman, as initially agreed. Thus Colette Avital was kicked out of slot 20 and demoted to 25.

The mechanism, which Barak so highly lauded, of insuring minimum representation for women, has been turned in his hands into a mechanism for making sure that women would have no more than minimal representation.

In the Likud two women, Limor Livnat and Naomi Blumenthal, climbed - on their own - into the top 10 and no one raised a squawk about their occupying unassigned

and unreserved slots, which could have been claimed by males.

But in Labor, Avital could have retained her slot only if a male represented the immigrants.

As it stands now, Avital must drop down the list - as if to make sure that women's representation does not exceed the allotted quota.

Barak's women may yet gang up on Barak and force him to make changes. Their cause is more popular than Massala's so the discomfited Barak might well appease them, and grudgingly try to sweep under the rug his off-demonstrated proclivity to get into too much trouble because of too little foresight.

BEN-GAL

Continued from Page 1

Police are focusing on the reasons for Ben-Gal's participation in the visit, suspecting it may have encouraged him to change his testimony.

mony in Sharon's libel suit. Police are also examining the suspicion that Ben-Gal perjured himself when he told the court that he had not met Sharon in a year. That statement was made two weeks after they both returned from Russia.

Sharon filed a libel suit against Ha'aretz, whose writer Uzi Bezman accused Sharon of deception in his conduct of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion. Sharon lost the suit, but filed an appeal with the Supreme Court where the case is pending.

In defending its case, Ha'aretz requested testimony from Ben-Gal, who reportedly said at a Tel Aviv University lecture 12 years ago that Sharon had operated to intensify the Israeli invasion without Begin's knowledge.

Ben-Gal refused to testify until

he returned from the business trip with Sharon to Russia. He then said under oath that Sharon had not carried out any secret operations and he signed a statement that he had not discussed the case with Sharon.

News agencies contributed to this report.

KURDS

Continued from Page 1

While not everything Turkey does or wants benefits Israel, the immediate payoff of the close ties has been lucrative defense con-

tracts and, according to foreign reports, sharing of intelligence.

"There is no such thing as a free lunch," said Prof. Efraim Inbar, head of the BESA strategic think tank at Bar-Ilan University. "We have to look at some alliances through their cost-benefits. The IAF is flying in Turkey

and Turkish officials said that under certain circumstances we would be able to use their territory and that is of great deterrent value.

"We should not make enemies if it is not necessary, but on the other hand, what is at stake is a very important relationship. We

should not be hysterical even if we have to pay a price," Inbar said.

Turkish sources close to the defense establishment said there was satisfaction in Ankara over the firm Israeli response in Berlin. "The Kurds made a big mistake there. Let this be a good

lesson for them," one source in Ankara quoted Turkish defense sources as saying.

"The Turks are always thanking me. They are living on the image, much of which is supplied by the banner headlines of the Turkish press, that we are helping them greatly," Liel said.

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Elections

Ethiopian leader compares Massala rebuff to blood scandal

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Members of the Ethiopian community expressed anger, pain and disbelief yesterday over the Labor Party's treatment of MK Adisu Massala after he lost the seat on the party list reserved for an immigrant to Sofa Landver in a controversial vote.

"There was once the blood incident, this is the second painful incident of its kind. I was never so angry at this country as I was during the blood incident, and yesterday I felt the same way," Moshe Bahata, chairman of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organizations and himself a Labor Party member up until Tuesday night, said yesterday.

Bahata was referring to the insult the community suffered in 1996 when blood they

donated for transfusions was found to be thrown out by Magen David Adom after it was collected because it was believed to have a high risk of being contaminated with disease.

"There was a party gathering in Beersheba, where party leaders said: 'Don't make the same mistake we made in 1996, don't vote for him,' Bahata said. Nonetheless, he explained, Massala had support and there were votes for him, "and they even told him that he won the spot. But Ehud Barak and others who spoke at functions I attended said that without a representative of the Russian immigrants, we can't launch the campaign."

"When they saw that things were tight in the voting, they said, 'Don't worry, everything will be okay,' but suddenly we saw that

Sofa Landver won. They made a political sacrifice out of him. This is unacceptable. I was a member of this party, but now I'm cutting myself off from it. If that's how they kick us out, I guess it's not our home."

Bahata, who called the step "political suicide" on Labor's part, said phones at the association were ringing all day, including callers from Oriental backgrounds "who told us that they sympathized with us, because the same thing had been done to them. This is one of the few things that consoles us."

"It hurts that the leaders of the party came out against him before the election," Malako Solomon, 26, of Rehovot said. "But the Israeli people are smart and voted for him to be our representative, but suddenly they took

away his votes. This hurts and angers me. It's racist. I think we will now look for our rightful place. We will wait to see what Adisu decides, and we will follow him there."

"It really hurts," said Fanta Kililo, 42, of Tel Aviv. "It's hard for us to accept. They told him to run and then they made a mess of it for him. He represented us well in the parliament, and we are sorry that he likely won't be there any longer."

Bahata said he and other Ethiopians who had supported Labor were now unsure which party they would back, but "we want a place where we're treated like equals."

"I wanted Barak to be prime minister, and I supported peace and its path, but what they did yesterday was unbelievable."



Center Party candidate Yitzhak Mordechai tries on a crown at Tel Aviv's Carmel Market yesterday.

(Gideon Markovitz)

Mordechai, Shahak press the flesh at Carmel Market

By DANNA HARMAN

Center Party candidates Yitzhak Mordechai and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak took to the marketplace yesterday: moving sprightly down the narrow lanes of Tel Aviv's open-air Carmel Market, shaking hands over the banana and strawberry stalls, dropping into a Kurdish synagogue, and sampling the tehina at a local dive.

Surrounded by aggressively tight security, an even more aggressive and massive press corps, and a group of locals who tried to encourage crowd participation in a "Mordechai, king of Israel" chant, the two candidates seemed relaxed and content.

"I would like to thank you all for the respect and warmth and sup-

port you have shown us here," said Mordechai as he stood up to make a toast over the kabab, liver, and heart skewers at Sami Rachmani's smoke-filled, one-room restaurant. "Our work has just begun - and we need you to spread the word and help us."

Yesterday's Center Party souk tour was very different than Shahak's attempt to march through the Hatikva market last month, an ill-fated trip that ended with tomato-throwing and violent name-calling.

As Carmel vendors like to say, "this is no Hatikva souk. Here we know how to welcome guests." Any guests, said Michael Moyal speaking over a cart of asparagus. "Even," he added to prove just how far this souk's hospitality

goes. "Yossi Sarid," Eyal Gorno, at the pickle stand, pulled his free "Mordechai for Prime Minister" T-shirt over his checkered sweatshirt and explained how it works: "We yell 'Mordechai, Mordechai' and throw candies in the air, because it's fun, it's the thing to do, and because it's polite... but when we go to vote the only man we can vote for is Bibi. In fact, he's the only real man there is."

There were, truth be told, some souk souls who disagreed. "Give him a chance," said Zahava Peretz, picking out some colorful underwear and extending her hand to Mordechai. "Bibi is too young for us. He doesn't know what he's doing. Look at this country. Where is the Jewish genius? No sign of it

now. We need some smart, mature men in charge, and if they are Sephardim, all the better."

Labor confirms Landver result

By DANNA HARMAN

The Labor Party yesterday reexamined its primary race results, and confirmed that Sofa Landver had received 1,740 more votes than Adisu Massala in the race for the immigrant slot (No. 19) on its Knesset list.

A Labor spokeswoman said the tally changed late in the counting, when the votes came in from Ashkelon and its environs, where many Russian-speakers live.

Massala, who thought he had won the race Tuesday morning when the results of 68 percent of the votes were announced, continued his tirade against Labor yesterday, calling the party "racist."

"It was simply not fair. I was pushed out so that Labor could say it has Russians on the list. And what about us, the Ethiopians? What are we not important?" said Massala, according to Rahamim Elazar, who interviewed Massala's Amharic for Israel Radio's Amharic service.

"I vow to fight back against the party and the chairman," added Massala.

ELECTIONS

notebook

Sarid signs Begin petition

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid is among the signatories of the petition to register Ze'ev (Benny) Begin as a prime ministerial candidate, it was revealed yesterday.

In an interview on Israel Radio, Sarid said he had been approached by young people at a convention at a Tel Aviv school and "decided without hesitation to sign."

"Begin is my preferred candidate on the Right for prime minister, because at least he tells the public the truth about the Right, and doesn't throw sand in eyes," Sarid said. "I wanted to enable him to compete."

Nina Gilbert

Likud HQ for Ethiopian, Russian immigrants

The Likud yesterday announced the establishment of a joint campaign headquarters for immigrants from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia to be headed by Ze'ev Geizel and Admoso Halali. The two are expected to work closely together to attract the votes of new immigrants to the party, said Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein.

The announcement of the creation of the joint campaign was apparently made following the tension in Labor where Ethiopian-born MK Adisu Massala feels he was ousted from his seat by MK Sofa Landver, a veteran immigrant from the Soviet Union.

Liat Collins

PM gives ministers daily campaign instructions

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has begun issuing daily written instructions to Likud ministers and MKs on what they should stress and how they should respond to stories in the news. Yesterday's instruction was to emphasize that "Labor is divisive." On Tuesday the theme of the day was that the Labor list is "leftist."

The daily instructions have not gone down well among the cabinet members, at least one of whom said, "We should tell him what to say, not the other way around." And several apparently told their aides that they could read the missive for them and then throw it in the trash.

Liat Collins

More propaganda restrictions take effect

Pina Rosenblum's fans may be disappointed: Her enormous election posters, along with those of other candidates, will now have to be removed, under restrictions on election propaganda which took effect yesterday, 90 days before the May 17 poll.

According to Central Elections Committee regulations, advertisements larger than 50 cm. by 70 cm. are now banned, meaning that all ads on buses and other vehicles, bus stops, and billboards throughout the country are illegal.

Ads are also banned along highways, sidewalks and other public domains, except for neighborhood bulletin boards. Ads carried by aircraft are also banned.

Newspaper ads greater than 40 inches are also prohibited, and each party may not place more than one ad a day in each newspaper.

The traditional limitation on the broadcast of activities of election candidates on television and radio 21 days before the election has been eliminated.

However, television and radio shows are prohibited from allowing election propaganda from 60 days before the polling, which could make it difficult for them to host candidates.

Nina Gilbert

Yisrael Ba'aliya picking slate today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Two days after two of its MKs seceded from its ranks, facing additional challenges from Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu party and the new Lev Olim L'Ma'an Yisrael list, Yisrael Ba'aliya holds its party convention at Beit Mahayal in Tel Aviv today.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky will be unopposed in the No. 1 slot, and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein is expected to be No. 2. Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs Marina Solodkin and Roman Brodman are considered shoo-ins for the next two spots, although it remains unclear in just what order, a party source said. There

are no reserved spots on the list. With both Yuri Stern and Michael Nudelman gone, having set up their own faction which may or may not eventually hook up with Lieberman or another party, the remaining realistic spots have become a horse race.

Among those considered to have a particularly good chance of getting a realistic spot is Yitzhak Chen, head of the dentists' union, who is also a member of the Broadcasting Authority plenum and the World Zionist Organization executive, and Gnady Rigueur, a past party director-general from Kfar Sava, the source said.

Others among the 30 candidates considered to have a shot at a realistic seat include Ofakim

Deputy Mayor Victor Rachmilov, Tirat Carmel city councilwoman Natalya Yelinson, and Beersheba Deputy Mayor Moshe Borochov.

Stern and Nudelman supporters will have to decide whether or not to seek seats within the party or follow their leaders out of the party.

The top seven positions on the list, to be chosen by the 500 members of the party central committee, are expected to be known by about 7:30 tonight, a spokeswoman said. The vote will be conducted by secret ballot for each candidate for each spot on the list, with the winner announced after each round. There are currently 20,000 members of the party, the spokeswoman said.

ON THE RECORD

I stopped Begin links up the Labor phones to a new service: *Pardon-Waiting* - Shas leader Aryeh Deri calls Adisu Massala incident in view of Ehud Barak's request for forgiveness from Sephardi old-timers.

They told him to run and then they made a mess of it for him - Fanta Kililo, 42, of Tel Aviv about Massala's failure to win a realistic spot on Labor's Knesset list.

I wanted Barak to be prime minister, and I supported peace and its path, but what they did yesterday was unbelievable - Moshe Bahata, chairman of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organizations.

He behaved abominably. It was simply outrageous, and disrespectful, and caused us a great deal of harm - senior Labor MK.

We should tell him what to say, not the other way around - unidentified cabinet member about Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's daily election propaganda instructions to Likud ministers.

Bibi is too young for us. He doesn't know what he is doing. Look at this country. Where is the Jewish genius? No sign of it now. We need some smart, mature men in charge, and if they are Sephardim, all the better - Zahava Peretz, picking out some colorful underwear and extending her hand to Mordechai, in the Carmel Market yesterday.

We couldn't find anyone with the evil instinct for politics, therefore we were left without a candidate - Meirav movement secretary-general Dan Tausari.

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Police to decide who has rights to disputed Sheikh Jarrah house

By AMY KLEIN

Jerusalem police yesterday prevented a group of Beit Orot Yeshiva students from occupying a three-room house in Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, which the former Arab owner claims was purchased from him illegally.

Over the last two months the yeshiva has moved into six other nearby apartments formerly occupied by Arabs, in an effort to resettle what they call the "Simon the Just" neighborhood, named after the rabbi whose grave is some 10 meters away.

The students moved into the vacant, 60-square-meter house at 1:30 a.m. yesterday. By 10 a.m., former owner Abdullah Lifaweh and several neighbors were demonstrating outside the house, shouting at the students. Police broke up the two groups and took Lifaweh, who had moved out last week, and a yeshiva representative in for questioning.

Police sealed off the building and will announce today who can move in, said police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby.

Molodet MK Benny Elon said yesterday the house had been purchased legally, and the transaction had even been videotaped. "Frankly, I am surprised they made a ruckus. It's just a show for the neighbors," he said.

The neighbors are unhappy with the new Jewish presence there. "This is not the first house they took and said they paid for it, and they are cheating us out of our homes," said a 34-year-old Arab man who did not want to be named.

The yeshiva, whose main compound with about 100 students lies on the Mount of Olives, moved into a synagogue adjacent to yesterday's disputed house two months ago. "We want to revive the Jewish neighborhood here, to reinstate what was once a vibrant Jewish



A Beit Orot Yeshiva student chats on the phone yesterday as an Arab worker delivers building materials to the disputed Sheikh Jarrah house. (Brian Heidler)

community prior to 1967," said Chaim Silberstein, Beit Orot's executive director. Each year thousands of people visit the grave of Simon the Just, who was the leader of the Sanhedrin in the first century. Silberstein said they plan to occupy some 40 apartments in the neighborhood, an area of about 16 dunams.

But neither the yeshiva nor the Arab families own the land; it is registered to two Jewish charitable organizations which administer synagogues, hospitals, and burial societies.

"After 1967 we found 24 families had illegally occupied the land," said Yehzekel Zakai, director of the Sephardic Community Committee, one of the organizations which owns the land. Zakai, a former Labor MK (1977-84), said the families received protected tenants' status and had only to pay rent in order to stay.

The committee went to court to evict the families, because they have not paid rent, Zakai said. What the yeshiva has actually purchased from the Lifawehs and other families is the squatters' rights.

Zakai said they have allowed the Beit Orot Yeshiva to occupy the synagogue and small surrounding apartments "temporarily" — "until we decide what to do with the property." Zakai said he knows nothing of the yeshiva's intention to resettle the neighborhood with Jews, but they would need his organization's consent — even to purchase squatters' rights.

"I have nothing against the Arabs living there," Zakai said. "If only they would pay the rent."

Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari said yesterday that Beit

Orot's entrance into the neighborhood could lead to bloodshed. "It's not the point who owns the house; what's important is who lives in the surrounding area. Any time Jewish settlers enter a Palestinian neighborhood, that's incitement."

But Silberstein disagrees. "We are legally buying out the tenants' rights in this neighborhood, which has historical significance to the Jews," he said. "The incitement is against us. They attacked us [last week] and we have every right to be here."

Tel Aviv gang members remanded until end of month

By HEDI J. GLEIT

Tel Aviv gang-leader Yossi Harari was remanded yesterday until March 1 on suspicion of planning to murder a rival gang member.

Harari, 33, of the Ramat Amidar gang, is suspected of planning to kill Avi Bitan of Pardess Katz and is being held also for extortion and illegal possession of weapons.

Harari and a number of his associates were arrested on Tuesday in a police operation to end the war between the two Tel Aviv gangs, which has claimed seven lives since 1995.

Harari allegedly planned to murder Bitan last July, with the assistance of Nissim Yamin, who the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court remanded yesterday until February 28. Yamin denies that he was involved in the plot.

Police learned of the plot when Ramat Amidar gang member Yossi Hadad agreed to become a state

tion on several people who allegedly were involved in the conflict and were remanded yesterday.

Ronni's sister Etti, 43, is suspected of asking Hadad to murder Orli Abutbul, Ronni's girlfriend. She was remanded until Sunday.



Moshe Akoubas (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Haim Meizlish, 34, is suspected of being involved in a protection racket with the Hararis. He was remanded for two days, after which he will be released on bail to house arrest until Monday.

F-Sgt. Moshe Akoubas, 40, who had been responsible for escorting prisoners through the courts until he was fired from the police force on Tuesday, is suspected of plotting to blow up a holding cell at the court while members of the Pardess Katz gang were in it. He also is suspected of supplying the Ramat Amidar gang with counterfeit US dollars. The court remanded Akoubas until February 28.

The suspects yesterday accused Hadad of being a drug addict and a liar.

In asking for the remand of the Hararis, of Akoubas, and of Yamin, police told the court that they posed a danger to the public. Police expect the investigation to take several more weeks.

Yossi Harari (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

witness after being arrested in October. Hadad was arrested along with Harari's brother, Ronni. While Harari was jailed, police released Hadad and dropped charges against him in exchange for his turning state witness. He then provided police with informa-

Dutch El Al worker said poison was on doomed plane

By ELISE FRIEDMAN and HAIM SHAPIRO

THE HAGUE — A Dutch El Al employee heard himself on tape yesterday telling Schiphol Airport officials of "explosives, poison" in the plane during the first day of hearings about the cargo of the El Al plane that crashed on Amsterdam in 1992.

Cargo supervisor H. Aaij says he did not remember making the call, but is sure the information he gave was a mistake. Nobody at El Al told him to suppress cargo information. "I was upset by phone calls from the media, who asked obscene questions," he said.

Ari Goldblum, a Dutch employee of Aeroground, the company supplying ground services to El

Al, testified that he brought all the relevant documents concerning the aircraft's cargo to the Dutch authorities an hour after the crash.

Conflicting testimonies by police officers and ex-El Al operations officer J. Plettenberg did nothing to answer questions about the cargo. Plettenberg accused El Al of inconsistencies in cargo documents.

Despite tension between the Netherlands and Israel surrounding the Dutch parliamentary hearing into the El Al crash, the Dutch government yesterday authorized Israel to conduct a weekly charter flight from Israel to Amsterdam.

The decision came a day after the authorities in Holland authorized two charter flights a week for Arkia. The Transport Ministry

said that both authorizations were given only after Civil Aviation Administration head Neri Yarkoni told the Dutch that if they did not authorize the flights, he would not allow any increase in the number of Dutch charter flights to Israel.

The inquiry has centered around reports that the El Al cargo 747, which crashed into an apartment complex, killing 39 residents and four crew members, was carrying DMMP, a component in the deadly nerve gas, Sarin. El Al has insisted that it made a full report of the contents of the cargo immediately following the disaster. Testimony at the inquiry indicated that the Dutch authorities did not make the information public following a request from El Al.

However, the inquiry has generated ill-will towards Israel and El Al in Holland and in one case, customs officials held up an El Al cargo trans-shipment from Tel Aviv to Melbourne for three days because it included plastic models of rockets. Yesterday El Al officials, in Holland for the inquiry reported that the atmosphere appeared to have calmed down and El Al denied reports that it intended to transfer its cargo hub from Schiphol.

Hearings will continue today. Cargo manager Israel Chevrin will testify on Friday.

Levy: money needed for guards after school hours

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The absence of school guards after class hours is a problem that needs to be brought before the Internal Security Ministry, and the necessary funds must be found to provide such security for schoolchildren, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday.

The minister made his remarks during a tour of schools in the Herzliya region, where pupils at five local schools were sexually abused this week.

Levy told Herzliya Mayor Yael German, local officials, school principals, teachers, psychologists and parents that the whole subject of school guards had been transferred two years ago to the Internal Security Ministry, with the local authorities also absorbing part of the cost.

He said he was aware of the fact that there are essentially no guards on duty at the schools after 2 p.m., when classes officially end, which causes problems for schools that have after-school activities. Levy added that he would study the recommendations

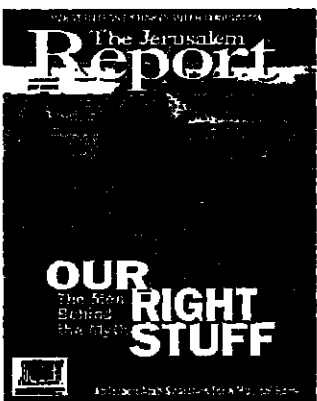
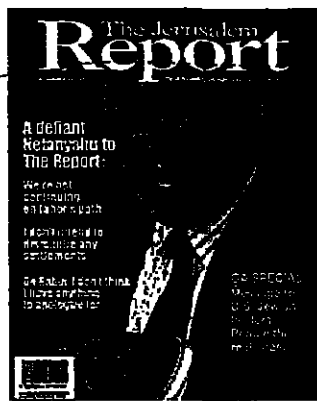
of a ministry panel set up to look into the matter after last week's attack on a Petah Tikva girl after school.

Levy said he would not hesitate to bring the matter up before the government, since providing such guards will cost a considerable amount of money.

The education minister said he would insist that teachers' seminars conduct sessions on preventing sexual abuse, adding that it wasn't necessary to wait for pupils at five different schools to be sexually abused to increase awareness of the problem. Such training should be built in to the teacher-training process, he said, to increase awareness on everyone's part.

School psychologists held individual and class conversations with pupils after the incidents to calm them and their parents. Levy praised city officials and school staff for their quick reaction in dealing with the problem. German said she had added a guard at every school, and would soon begin providing guards for the local community centers.

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Jerusalem Post

Lab workers fear safety conditions

Health Ministry staff complains of air quality in new Jerusalem building

By JUDY SIEGEL

Dozens of staffers at the Health Ministry's quality control labs in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul neighborhood demonstrated yesterday outside ministry headquarters to protest what they say are "dangerous conditions" in their new premises.

The Health Ministry has threatened to fire any worker who speaks to reporters about the working conditions, Asher Goldschlager, head of the lab workers' union, charged last night. Ten weeks ago, the 100 staffers - 90 of them women, and some of them pregnant - moved from the dungeon-like and dangerous old labs in the capital's Russian Compound

to an expensive new building in Givat Shaul. Goldschlager said the lab workers immediately began complaining of feeling unwell, and some even claimed the building was "shaking."

Eighty percent of the air, which contains noxious chemicals, is recycled, and only 20% is fresh air, he claimed.

Ministry spokesman Yoram Malka denied that anyone had been threatened with dismissal for speaking to the press.

Although the ministry has declared that conditions in the new facility are "first rate" and "completely safe," the workers said that starting Sunday, they would stop doing quality testing on all the locally made and imported

pharmaceuticals in the country, as well as on all vaccinations.

Goldschlager said that this would bring a halt to all immunizations when existing supplies run out.

"According to the law, no drugs can be released unless the lab makes quality checks," the union chief said. "Perhaps the ministry will try to skip these in violation of the law so the medications can get out."

The union head also said that the lab workers were promised additional manpower to cope with the much larger workload posed by parallel imports of medications from abroad and other work demands.

"But they tricked us; we got no more work-

ers." Malka has barred from the new labs those TV and *Jerusalem Post* journalists who asked to tour the facility and speak to the workers. He said he would "organize a supervised group tour" some time in the future.

The spokesman would not comment on how the ministry would cope with the threatened sanctions or about the manpower problem.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, meanwhile, said he had told his subordinates to prepare a plan for privatization of the labs, which would be "cheaper and more efficient."



Arutz 7 staff in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday hear that they will be prosecuted for illegal radio broadcasting. (Flash 90)

Arutz 7 to be tried for illegal broadcasts

By AMY KLEIN

The 10 broadcasters and managers of the settlers' Arutz 7 pirate radio station will be tried next month despite their lawyer Dan Selah's attempts yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court to postpone the case until the attorney-general rules on the legitimacy of

the charges against them.

Judge Yoram Noam yesterday set a trial date for March 9, saying, "the request to the attorney-general and this court case must be separated." The charges filed against them in January include indictments for operating without a license, operation of wireless equipment without a license, and use of radio frequen-

cies without authorization.

An additional charge was also filed against the station's director, Ya'acov Katz, for presenting false documents to the High Court of Justice, which said that their ship, "The Deer," did not broadcast within Israel's territorial waters.

Fleary broadcaster Adir Zik, one of the people charged, said the charges

are politically motivated. "The government isn't picking on other [pirate radio stations]. We are stepping on their toes, with our strong news and political shows, and this annoys them," Zik said.

He said the station goes to great lengths to uphold the law by broadcasting 24 kilometers away from Israeli-controlled waters.

6th graders given superfluous vaccination

By JUDY SIEGEL

Negligence by the Health Ministry and a ministry-supervised nurse in Ma'aleh Adumim two weeks ago resulted in her giving a third, unapproved vaccination against German measles to 10 sixth graders.

Although the superfluous shot will not cause any harm, the ministry has not yet reprimanded her to deter public health nurses from giving an unnecessary vaccination that could prove harmful.

The municipal nurse immunized 40 sixth graders in the Ma'aleh Adumim State School. Instead of examining their vaccination booklets before giving the shot, the nurse did so afterwards. She then realized that 10 of the pupils had previously received two doses of rubella (German measles) vaccine and that she had given them their third dose.

After realizing her mistake, she reported the incident to her supervisors, and the ministry investigated. Immunization policy in the Western world includes two shots against rubella - to protect the children and any pregnant women who might come in contact with them, posing the risk that their babies could be born deaf or mentally retarded.

The two-dose vaccine is now given in the fifth and then sixth grades. Two doses provides full protection; a third is unnecessary, the ministry said, but does no harm and is, in effect, a "booster" dose.

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Breeding pools to help save salamanders from extinction

By LIAT COLLINS

It might be humble, but it's a good home if you're a salamander. The Nature Protection and National Parks Authority has held a "house-warming" for salamanders in a concrete-based pool specially designed and built as a reproduction center for them in the Carmel Hai Bar nature reserve. The pool is dedicated to Prof. Heinrich Mendelssohn to mark his 60 years of work on nature protection and efforts to save the amphibian population in Israel.

"In the last 60 years I have seen winter ponds disappear and for 30 years I have insisted that we have to rehabilitate them, and provide breeding grounds for amphibians. I'm sorry it's taken so long, but I'm happy it is finally happening today," said Mendelssohn at the ceremony held on Monday.

He maintained that one of the reasons that amphibians have not been sufficiently protected in the past is that salamanders, toads, and frogs do not elicit the same public sympathy as many other threatened species.

There are three isolated populations of salamanders in Israel: at Tel Dan, in Galilee, and on the Carmel. The salamanders mate on land, but give birth to live young in the water at the beginning of winter, and hibernate through the summer heat.

The Haifa salamander population used to extend to the Checkpoint area, but has shrunk considerably, because of urban development and pollution to which they are particularly sensitive.

The NPNPA has built earthen-based pools in the past, but research found that the salamanders preferred concrete pools built for irrigation purposes by the local

Druse communities, which hold the water better. There their fate depended, however, on the upkeep of the pool.

The new concrete pool is the first of a cluster proposed for the area. It uses run-off water and is built in the traditional Druse style, but with an access ramp for the amphibians. "Apart from helping save the salamanders, it is also part of an effort to rehabilitate the Carmel after the serious forest fires," said Dr. Reuven Orni, director of the NPNPA Aquatic Ecology Department.

Salamanders can grow longer than 30 cm and are clearly identifiable by their striking yellow and orange splashes of color against black. When threatened they exude a toxic secretion known as salamandrin. Along with newts and spadefoots they are considered under threat of extinction in Israel, although their exact number is not known.



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Lott improves his lot in Senate

By ART PINE

The yearlong scandal involving President Clinton may have been devoid of any heroes, as pundits are fond of saying, but this past month's Senate trial has bolstered the stature of at least one major player: Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Although some Americans clearly are unhappy over Clinton's acquittal, Lott has been winning kudos from both parties — not only for keeping the trial on track, but for avoiding the strident partisanship that plagued the House proceedings last autumn.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., who earlier had expressed apprehension that the Senate might go the way of the House, took the floor after the final acquittal vote Friday to praise Lott effusively "for the great, great job he has done."

"We were thrown into adverse circumstances and we didn't want to be there, but we feel closer walking out of there," Daschle said in a post-trial interview. The two had been on opposite sides on almost every issue, but they still managed to work together.

However, the jury is still out on whether Lott's strategy — to risk angering conservatives now in hopes of protecting the Senate's 19 Republican incumbents who could face a voter backlash over impeachment in the 2000 elections — will have gained him anything beyond transitory praise.

Lott spent President's Day trying to put impeachment in the past and map out the future of the Republican agenda by promoting the party's \$743 billion tax cut proposal as he took part in a town hall type meeting in Michigan.

The Mississippian has managed to hold Republicans together during the impeachment trial, but analysts say he still hasn't gained any real control of his fractured

caucus, which remains badly splintered over issues and strategy.

"Lott's performance during the impeachment trial demonstrated that he still has a problem with the right wing of his party," said Jerold Duquette, a political analyst at George Mason University in Virginia. "He was unable to lead them in the direction that he wanted."

ANGRY conservative activists already are faulting the majority leader for not being more aggressive in pushing for a fuller airing of the House managers' case against the president — and for not taking a tougher approach toward Senate Democrats.

David Keene, head of the American Conservative Union, said Lott already "had problems" among conservatives before the Senate trial, but "for reasons fair and unfair, he probably finds himself held in lower regard than he was at the outset."

"I guess you have to divide it," said Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia political analyst. "Inside the Senate, Lott's position has been enhanced — at least, for the time being. But outside, a good many Republicans are going to be critical of what he's done." Nevertheless, even the kudos represent a gain for the beleaguered majority leader.

Although Lott has held the post since mid-1996, until the impeachment trial he had little to show for it. Republicans were in disarray, and Lott himself was viewed as a man who couldn't deliver.

When the Republican party barely held on to its 55-vote Senate majority in November, Lott's leadership became the target of criticism. Although he managed to keep his job, there were serious questions about how effective he could be in the new session.



US Senate Majority Leader, Republican Trent Lott (AP)

But to many onlookers, Lott's performance in shepherding the impeachment trial, though not flawless, has resurrected his reputation and left him poised to become a more potent force in shaping policy for the Republicans. He also is in far better favor with Democrats.

HEWING to a middle course, Lott gingerly fended off pressure from Democrats to cut off the trial early. He rebuffed demands by House managers to call up a long list of witnesses. And he maintained a bipartisan tone to the end.

By deft behind-the-scenes maneuvering, Lott managed to save face for the 13 House prosecutors — a difficult job, considering the inevitable clash between the House managers and the visibly more laid-back Senate — privately persuading the House team not to call witnesses.

Perhaps most amazingly — in an outcome that undoubtedly will earn the gratitude of all sides — the majority leader fulfilled his

pledge to have the Senate complete the impeachment trial by mid-February, a schedule that looked almost impossible even three weeks ago.

To be sure, Lott's heightened stature has not come without some setbacks. Early on, he prematurely went out on a limb to support a plan that would have cut the trial short and censured Clinton instead — only to have to backpedal when Republicans rebelled.

A few days later, Lott announced plans to push through a Republican proposal for a full-blown trial, complete with testimony from a string of prosecution witnesses. He later backed away from that after moderates appealed for him to scotch the idea.

Nevertheless, whether by skill alone or partly by luck, the majority leader has managed to parlay most such blunders into bridgeheads, enabling him not only to recover but to win medium-term gains as well.

The setback over the early move to cut short the trial helped Lott put together a rare 100-to-0 backing for a bipartisan plan to get through the trial's first phase.

PERHAPS more important, the trial has given Lott an opportunity to bolster his presence as majority leader by forging closer ties, both with his own factions — Republicans and with Democrats — a step that almost certainly will yield dividends in coming months.

Where the Mississippian previously consulted only with a handful of like-minded Republicans, insiders contend the trial has forced him to deal on an hour-by-hour basis with GOP senators of all stripes and to take their views into account.

"It's like having to spend time with people in a foxhole — you really get to bond with people like nowhere else," one Republican

staffer said. Moreover, since the beginning of the trial preparations in December, Lott has reached out more than ever to Democrats, talking regularly with Daschle and other party leaders in an effort to broker compromises.

Not surprisingly to anyone who knows him, Lott's approach to the impeachment trial has been based mainly on pragmatism — and election-year mathematics.

The five-seat loss that Republicans suffered in the House in November — and the continuation of nationwide poll results showing that about 70 percent of Americans wanted Clinton to stay in office — left no doubt that the electorate wouldn't support a full-scale impeachment trial.

Even more unsettling were the numbers for the 2000 election: Of the 33 senators who will be up for re-election then, 19 are Republicans and 13 of them come from states that Clinton carried in 1996. Losing only six seats could cost Senate Republicans their 55-45 majority.

How well his strategy will work in the long run remains to be seen, but there is little doubt that conservatives are angry.

There also is the question of how long the majority leader's heightened status will last. Although Lott is basking in praise from all sides right now, the Senate's Republicans remain splintered and reluctant to see the line.

But Daschle, of George Mason University, believes the outlook isn't quite as grim as it may seem.

"I don't think (the Senate Republicans' partnership on the impeachment question) is going to carry over into Social Security and other issues," he said. "They won't have the ideological edge that impeachment did and won't be affected by the bitterness over the president."

(Los Angeles Times)

High hopes for Year of the Rabbit in China

By JOE McDONALD

With fireworks and feasting, Chinese saw in the Year of the Rabbit on Tuesday, hoping its traditional promise of prosperity is matched by an end to Asia's economic malaise.

While millions of worshippers wreathed in incense smoke prayed at Buddhist and Taoist temples, state media emphasized the positive. Under red headlines, newspapers highlighted China's achievements over the past year, including surviving devastating flooding.

"Under complicated circumstances both at home and overseas, our great motherland remains prosperous," Premier Zhu Rongji said in a New Year speech.

Shanghai, China's biggest city, was littered with debris after a thunderous night of fireworks and skyrockets set off in defiance of a

safety ban. Fireworks traditionally used to mark the start of the new year are meant to scare away evil.

Businesses were closed and normally crowded streets were nearly empty as families visited friends and relatives.

In Beijing, random bangs of fireworks continued through the night and into Tuesday morning. Flowers decorated many homes to mark the start of the lunar calendar spring, even in north China, which is still in the grip of winter.

The Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese zodiac promises good luck and prosperity, while the newly ended Year of the Tiger is associated with uncertainty and difficulty.

In Taiwan, business people crowded into a temple devoted to five smiling gods of wealth to pray for good fortune.

Taiwan has avoided falling into recession, but an economic slowdown has taken a toll in plunging

stock prices and rising unemployment.

Tseng Wang-chun, a prominent Taiwanese fortune teller, said the new year would offer "great opportunities to those craving fortune." But for those already rich, he warned that slight mistakes "could take a toll."

SHOPS and restaurants in Singapore, a predominantly ethnic Chinese island in Southeast Asia, departed from tradition by staying open on the holiday in hopes of extra sales. Singapore is in its first recession in more than a decade.

Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa of Hong Kong tried to put a positive spin on what threatens to be another bleak year. The territory is mired in its worst recession in decades.

"After the holidays, I am sure that in our typical Hong Kong way, we will all be back at work striving for a better tomorrow,"

Tung said in a New Year message.

On the mainland, millions of Chinese took advantage of an official seven-day holiday to visit their hometowns and go to fairs and parades. Throughout the day, state TV broadcast variety shows with comedy skits, dancing and music.

Authorities gave the family of jailed journalist Gao Yu something extra to celebrate, unexpectedly releasing her early Monday from a prison term. Gao, 35, had served all but seven months of a six-year sentence on charges of leaking state secrets.

Her release for medical treatment came just ahead of the UN Human Rights Commission's annual meeting in March. Human rights activists have been calling for the commission to censure China because of a crackdown on dissidents launched late last year.

A poll in Beijing found 86 percent of people surveyed planned to

reunite with families and friends. Others broke with tradition and went sightseeing, an increasingly popular activity.

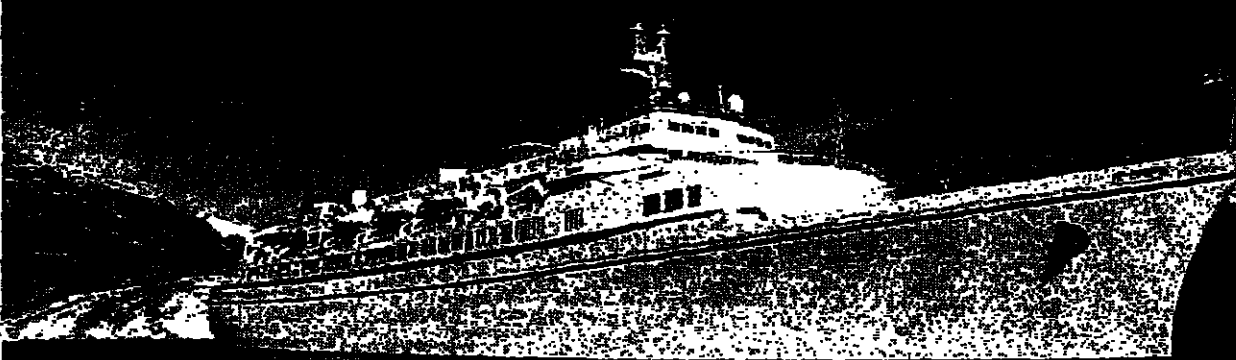
Another survey, in the northern Chinese port of Tianjin, found that one in four people believed the holiday has lost its air of extravagance now that many people enjoy good food and can buy new clothes year-round, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

A slowing economy and worries about unemployment also took a toll on extravagance this year. Tens of millions of workers have been laid off by state companies and rural incomes are growing slowly. State media said that even in relatively prosperous Beijing, spending on the holiday was down.

Department stores tried to spur interest with sales, and a national welfare lottery played on the traditional New Year greeting: "Get rich."

(AP)

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Hillary Clinton puts focus on women in 2000

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The prospect of Hillary Rodham Clinton running for the Senate has underscored the fact that US women may be on the verge of a political breakthrough in 2000 by competing for the presidency and vice presidency.

The first lady stoked speculation Tuesday by saying she would give "careful thought" to running for the US Senate seat from New York being vacated by fellow Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who is retiring next year.

If she ran, and especially against Republican New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, the race could turn into a political slugfest as well as a media circus.

But several analysts believe it would be a sideshow to the real action on the gender front at the presidential and vice presidential levels.

Elizabeth Dole, a former cabinet secretary and the wife of defeated 1996 Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole, has stirred excitement by saying she is seriously considering seeking the presidency. She may become the first truly viable female presidential candidate in US history.

But even if she does not win the nomination, Dole is high on many lists of prospective vice-presidential candidates, which may pressure the Democrats to put a woman on their ticket, too.

Among Democratic women seen as possible vice-presidential choices are California Sen. Dianne Feinstein and New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen.

Lautenberg probably won't seek fourth term

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

NEW YORK — Senator Frank Lautenberg "is" expected to leave office this year, according to a source close to the senator, who said he would not run for a fourth term.

Lautenberg, who turned 75 last month, has insisted for months that he wanted to win another term in hopes of becoming a committee chairman should Democrats win back control of the Senate.

Lautenberg's decision will affect the political calculations of both parties as they plot the 2000 elections. With 19 Republican seats and 14 Democratic seats up for reelection, Democrats are energized at the idea of narrowing or closing the 55-45 seat advantage now held by the GOP.

During a November trip through world hot spots, including the Middle East and the former Yugoslavia, Lautenberg said his hectic schedule should put to rest any thoughts that he was too old to seek a fourth term.

First elected in 1982, Lautenberg, a New Jersey Democrat with a liberal voting record, serves on the Senate's Budget, Appropriations, Environment and Intelligence committees. He was long active in the Jewish community for his sponsorship of the "Lautenberg Amendment," which eased the entry into the US of Jewish and evangelical Christian refugees from the former Soviet Union.

Polish parliament backs NATO membership

WARSAW (Reuters) — Polish parliament yesterday overwhelmingly approved membership of NATO, Poland's most important foreign policy objective since the fall of communist rule.

Watched by Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, lower house legislators voted 409 to seven, with four abstentions, to permit the head of state to sign the treaty that will take Poland into NATO alongside Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Kwasniewski will sign the document on February 26 in a televised link-up with Prague, where President Vaclav Havel is to seal Czech NATO membership.

The foreign ministers of NATO's first members from the former Soviet bloc will hand over the documents at a ceremony in Independence, Missouri, on March 12 that will mark the official moment of entry to the Western security alliance.

Poland is opening a new chapter in its history, said Kwasniewski after the vote on membership, which enjoys broad political and public support in Poland. "This puts

NATO to post troops in Kosovo 'within hours' of deal

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — NATO said yesterday it would have up to 6,000 peacekeeping troops ready to move into Kosovo within hours of any peace deal.

The international community has set a deadline of noon Saturday for Serbian and ethnic Albanian leaders to reach a peace agreement at talks that are midway through their second week at Rambouillet in France. If there is no deal, NATO remains on standby to launch air strikes against Serb targets.

"We really are into the critical end game now," a NATO official said. "We're still hoping for a political agreement by Saturday. We always knew the main business

would be done in the last 48 hours, and international pressure [for a deal] is enormous."

On the other hand... our other option, the use of force, is still on the table. Our aircraft are still in place," he added. "We hope it won't go that way."

Authorities in Serbia, of which Kosovo is a province, have repeatedly said they will not accept a foreign peacekeeping force, whose deployment would probably have to be enshrined in any eventual peace agreement.

Nevertheless, NATO officials said military chiefs had approved Operation Joint Guardian late Tuesday and NATO ambassadors,

meeting on a daily basis at alliance headquarters in Brussels, would give it the green light later Wednesday.

"This will give us a detailed plan ready for implementation," the NATO official said, adding that the advance force would be sent to Kosovo "within hours" of any peace deal requiring NATO implementation.

That initial force would include the 2,300-strong, primarily French, extraction force in Macedonia, a US Marine expeditionary unit currently aboard the USS *Nassau* in the Adriatic, and elements of NATO's German-based Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) under British Lieutenant-General Michael Jackson.

That's 5,000-6,000 people in total, available for immediate deployment," the NATO official said.

Alliance officials said ARRC men and equipment were already moving to the Aegean port of Thessaloniki in Greece, from where most of the eventual peace force of 28,000 would be deployed.

NATO allies Britain, Germany, France, and Italy were also shipping equipment to Greece for four mechanized battalions to support the advance force within a few days, officials said.



A riot policeman holds a captured miner as he gestures with a club in the village of Stoenesti 150 kms. from Bucharest. (AP)

Romanian police arrest miners' leader, stop miners

BUCHAREST — Romanian police arrested coal miners' leader Mircea Cozma yesterday after security troops stopped a violent march on Bucharest by thousands of coal workers, the government said.

Police enforced a warrant to arrest Cozma after the Supreme Court Monday sentenced him in absentia to 18 years in jail on security charges linked to his role in leading coal miners on anti-reform riots in 1991, during which Romania's first post-communist government was toppled.

Interior Minister Constantin Dudu Ionescu told a news conference at his headquarters of the operation during which 1,000 riot troops clashed for two hours with miners protesting against Cozma's

conviction, ending their latest march on the capital.

National police chief General Nicolae Berechet told reporters, "Cozma was taken out from a bus trying to flee Stoenesti," in a reference to pre-dawn clashes in the village 150 km. west of Bucharest.

Cozma was seeking an escape route after the clashes, during which police used teargas grenades and flares to disperse 5,000 coal miners who had tried to beat their way through a roadblock with clubs, chains and axes.

"I am totally disappointed at the way in which he (Cozma) manipulated his men and eventually betrayed them," Ionescu said.

Besides Cozma, police also detained another three of his

deputies from the Jiu Valley mining union, and briefly detained another 543 coal miners.

Berechet said one miner died by accident after trying to jump on a local train near the site of the clashes. Thirty-two police officers were hurt, three seriously.

The Supreme Court sentencing of Cozma on charges of undermining state security overturned a lower court ruling that jailed him for 18 months for public order offences.

He served out that term and returned home last year to a hero's welcome from miners fearing pit closures.

Ionescu's predecessor quit last month over a violent miners' march to Bucharest to protest pit closures

during which they burst twice past police cordons. They halted only after Cozma struck a deal over pay and concessions with Prime Minister Radu Vasile.

Coal miners became a potent political force in Romania after being granted major privileges under the old communist regime.

They were used by Romania's first post-communist president, a former communist himself, to intimidate his opponents in the early 1990s. But the miners have since lost influence as Romania has embarked on full-fledged market reforms.

WORLD

in brief

Two Saudi men beheaded for murder

RIYADH (AP) — Two Saudi men convicted of murder were beheaded in Saudi Arabia yesterday, the Interior Ministry said.

Hathal Shamari was executed in the central city of Hael after he was found guilty of shooting to death Sayer bin Ali al-Shamari, a fellow Saudi, following an argument.

In Riyadh, Fahd Ajami was beheaded for strangling to death compatriot Abdullah bin Hasan al-Ajami and burying his body in the sand before fleeing, the ministry said. The executions brought to six the number of people beheaded since the start of the year. Last year, 29 people were beheaded. The death sentence exists for murder, rape, drug trafficking and armed robbery.

MD refuses to testify in AIDS-tainted blood trial

PARIS (AP) — A doctor implicated in France's AIDS-tainted blood scandal yesterday refused to testify in the trial of three former ministers charged in connection with the infection of transfusion patients.

Dr. Claude Weissberg has been accused of playing a central role in discussions that led to a delay in the testing of blood donors for AIDS. Because he is under investigation in a separate case, he is not obliged to testify. The development came as the ministers face a second week of trial for manslaughter in the AIDS deaths of five people. They are accused of delaying putting an American AIDS test on the market while a French test was being readied.

North Korean population shrinks due to famine

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea's population has shrunk by as many as 3 million people to 22m. in the past four years because of famine, South Korean intelligence officials said yesterday, citing a classified North Korean survey. The survey by the North's Public Security Ministry confirms widespread Western reports that more than 500,000 North Koreans have died of hunger each year since 1995, they said.

Massive floods swept much of North Korea in 1994, aggravating the country's chronic food shortage caused by decades of inefficient collective farming. This was followed by drought.

Pro-Suharto protesters rally

JAKARTA (AP) — About 500 people rallied outside the attorney-general's office yesterday in a protest against a corruption investigation of former President Suharto.

State prosecutors are investigating allegations that Suharto enriched his family and associates at state expense during 32 years in power. They have lost some of their wealth and influence because of Indonesia's economic crisis and the new government's efforts to curb graft.

The pro-Suharto protesters, many of them from poor neighborhoods in Jakarta, waved banners and chanted slogans while four truckloads of anti-riot officers looked on.

Swiss chocolate exports sink after 10 years' rise

BERN (AP) — Exports of Swiss chocolate decreased last year for the first time in 10 years as economic crises in Asia and beyond chilled sales, manufacturers said yesterday.

Switzerland exported 5 percent less chocolate last year than in 1997, with 63,400 tons going abroad, according to the manufacturers' association Chocosuisse.

The exports brought in \$297 million, down 1% from the previous year. Chocosuisse attributed the setback to major downturns in Asia and East Europe, saying cheaper products were affected the most. But sales improved elsewhere in Europe, in the United States and Latin America, it said.

Freighter may have spilled 70,000 gallons of fuel

COOS BAY, Ore. (AP) — As salvage crews yesterday readied to tow the broken bow of a grounded freighter far out to sea, the Coast Guard said about 70,000 gallons of the molasses-like fuel oil may have spilled — far more than originally believed.

With the bow still containing about 135,000 gallons of fuel oil, Navy officials believe sinking the 440-foot front section will help contain the goopy liquid.

"This oil is already thick and viscous. If you get it down to these depths, about 5,000 feet, it will be under pressure, which will help immobilize it," Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Ed Parsons said. Officials initially believed less than 40,000 gallons of fuel oil had spilled.

The Japanese-owned ship ran aground off the north entrance to Coos Bay on February 4 while the crew was trying to wait out a storm.

Israel Airports Authority

Ben Gurion 2000 Project

Public Tender No. C4050064 Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Boilers and Chillers (REVISED ADVERTISEMENT)

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests Proposals from qualified Offerors meeting the below listed Pre-Conditions for the Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Boilers and Chillers for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project. Offerors are advised that amendments have been made to the Pre-Condition Classification Requirements (See Item 1), from the initial advertisement issued 11 February 1999.

Preliminary Mandatory Requirements: This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

1. Offeror shall be registered under Classification of Group B, Branch 170, Type 5 (Unlimited) and at least one of the following two: Group B, Branch 171, Type 1 or Group B, Branch 172, Type 1 under the State of Israel Registration of Contractors for Construction Works (Classification of Registered Contractors) 1988. A foreign Offeror shall comply with the requirements of Exhibit A, Part II of the RFP.
2. Offeror's minimum annual revenue in each of the last three (3) years was not less than the equivalent of Nine Million U.S. Dollars (\$9 million).
3. Offeror shall meet the staffing and personnel experience requirements specified in the RFP, Exhibit A.
4. The Offeror itself has previous experience, of supplying, installing and maintaining Boilers and Chillers and has supplied, installed and maintained in the last Five (5) years at least Two (2) Chillers, each with a capacity of at least 1200 TR and at least Two (2) Boilers, each with a capacity of at least 2500 KW.
5. The Offeror has a permanent commercial and technical agreement with the Manufacturers/Suppliers, and at least 3 Chillers technicians and 3 Boilers technicians have been trained by the Manufacturers/Suppliers as Maintenance Technicians. The Offeror has a back to back Agreement with the Manufacturers/Suppliers to support and act immediately upon any fault which the Offeror might not be able to immediately solve, or supply spare parts.
6. Offeror shall meet the registration requirements for a legal entity stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
7. Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israeli Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
8. Offeror shall provide an unconditional Bank Guarantee in the amount of One Million New Israeli Shekels (NIS1,000,000), valid for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the Proposal Submission Date, as specified in the RFP, Exhibit E.
9. Joint Ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
10. Offeror, if a foreign entity, shall additionally provide a Commercial Cooperation Undertaking Agreement, as a condition precedent to the execution of a Supply and Installation Agreement with the IAA.

Additional Preliminary Requirements:

Participation in the Tender Process is subject to the Offeror's satisfying all Preliminary Requirements as detailed in the Mandatory Tender Regulations (1993), Clause 6 (a) (1), (2) and (3). Proposal Documents: Tender Documents may be purchased until the Proposal Submission Date for the non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand New Israeli Shekels (13,000 NIS), including VAT. Tender Documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Offices located at Ben Gurion International Airport starting 11 February 1999 between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Zvi Peretz Cohen at telephone number: 972-3-977-4456 (Fax number 972-3-971-2956) a minimum of forty eight (48) hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase.

All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before 18 March 1999 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

A Pre-Proposal conference will be held at the Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices on 25 February 1999 at 08:30 to clarify provisions in the RFP documents, to summarize and present the Project and to respond to written questions posed by Offerors. Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend, but participation is not mandatory. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the RFP. The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest Proposal or any Proposal whatsoever.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Section 537 of the Military Jurisdiction Law, 1955, Chief of Staff, Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, has appointed a commission of inquiry to investigate the following matters:

1. The way in which the body parts of the soldiers of the 13th Navy Flotilla unit killed in Lebanon were identified on being returned from Lebanon.
2. The way in which the body parts of the soldiers were buried.
3. The failure to inform the bereaved families before burial of the body parts.

Any person wishing to appear before the commission on the above matters is invited to send his details and those of the matter in question, to the following address:

Lt.-Col. Roi Ginot, Head of the Legal Supervision Branch, Military Advocate General's Unit, P.O.B. 02329, 6 David Elazar St., Hakiry, Tel Aviv.

Justice (Ret.) Zvi A. Tal, Commission Chairman

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Island of stability

The sound of hats being eaten is conspicuously absent among the politicians, bureaucrats, and industrialists who savaged Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel for even attempting to rein in inflation when it burst forth last fall. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among those who gave in to the defeatist conventional wisdom when he briefly suggested raising the inflation target for this year. January's negative 0.5 percent consumer price index shows, however, that it was Frenkel who acted responsibly and the naysayers who panicked.

It was just over three months ago that a 20 percent plunge in the value of the shekel seemed to be sending inflation back into dreaded double-digit territory. Frenkel - and this newspaper - argued that this was essentially an isolated wave from the global financial instability that broke on Israeli shores, and not a reason to give in to temporary inflationary expectations.

Now it turns out that the dollar-shekel exchange rate has stabilized and that inflation driven by the adjustment in that rate has, since October, dropped just as quickly as it rose from August through October. A change in the method of calculating the CPI (using rental prices rather than new-home purchase prices) may have accentuated this trend slightly, but did create the underlying reality of increasing price stability.

Things could have been otherwise. If Frenkel had listened to the insistent chorus calling on him to allow inflation to rise just a bit - the economic equivalent of an alcoholic arguing for just one drink - then the inflationary blip could have been transformed into a lasting distortion.

Frenkel's quick and severe reaction to rising inflation nipped this destructive trend in the bud, and paved the way toward a gradual reduction in rates once it is clear that inflation is under control. The Bank of Israel's responsible approach probably also helped convince the Knesset not to break the 2 percent deficit target in the 1999 budget - despite electoral pressures - because doing so might force Frenkel to raise rates further.

The recently passed budget fell far short of the mark in producing desired growth-inducing reform, yet the fact that the deficit target was not breached could be viewed as an impressive accomplishment during this election season. In looking toward the future, however, it is disappointing that the major parties have sunk into a shared demagogic soup of economic platitudes that are at best empty and at worst irresponsible.

When Netanyahu bowed to mistaken political expediency and called for raising the interest-rate target, he largely vitiated the credit he deserved for standing by Frenkel for years in the tough fight against inflation. Ehud Barak and Yitzhak Mordechai, for their parts, have specialized in cheap attacks on the government's alleged lack of social consciousness, without volubly dissenting from irresponsible inflationary prescriptions that would make matters worse.

The unsettling picture emerging is one of Frenkel's Bank of Israel as the sole, if critical, island of stability and responsibility in the nation's economic system. Yet Frenkel is only capable of turning one distortion within the Israeli economy - inflation. The Thatcherite economic revolution promised by Netanyahu in his last campaign and first days in office are a distant memory, and are no longer being repeated, let alone implemented.

Incomprehensibly, the banner of free-market economic reform that Netanyahu has obsequiously lowered has not been raised by any of his political rivals. Ehud Barak's pledge to shift funds away from Haredim and construction in the territories may be politically smart, but hardly amounts to a serious economic program. Yitzhak Mordechai's new Center Party has shown little sign it has devised a "new economics" to go along with the "new politics" it hopes to introduce.

This economic policy vacuum is unfortunate, given the potential it had for any of the major parties, but particularly the Center Party, to champion a revised version of the reformist agenda that has been largely abandoned by Netanyahu. Just as the centrists are trying to convince voters that there is no conflict between peace and security and that religious-secular strife can be ameliorated, the new party could forge a synthesis between pro-growth economic reforms and social concerns.

The corner seems to have been turned on inflation and perhaps even on unemployment, which is down over the past quarter, despite predictions it would rise above 9 or even 10 percent. Real foreign investment grew by 36 percent in 1998, after staying almost level over the previous three years. The Israeli economy is fundamentally sound, and has a booming hi-tech sector on which to build. Still, there is much work to be done, and it is worrisome that no party has seen fit to pick up the economic gauntlet and build a mandate for reforms that could bring the economy out of recession and on to a new, much higher plateau.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAZARDS OF VOLUNTEERING

Sir, - The volunteering spirit is a value which is greatly praised in our society. The retired in particular, are often called upon to volunteer. But there are hazards. Consider the following:

For about five years I have been doing one full day's volunteer work regularly once a week, with a well-known institution in downtown Haifa.

It is a rehabilitation center for released prisoners and drug addicts, as well as a home for homeless people and for battered women. The importance of their work is recognized and has been publicly praised by the president of Israel as well as by the mayor of Haifa.

During one of my volunteering spells nine months ago, I stumbled on a spiral staircase and broke an

ankle. It was a complicated fracture, requiring surgery and a skin transplant, and a total of four weeks' hospitalization. To this day I am receiving physiotherapy, and it is unlikely that I will ever walk properly again, unaided by a cane.

Normally, the National Insurance Institute considers accidents of unpaid volunteers as work accidents. But here is the catch: the law stipulates that you are only considered a "volunteer" if prior to your volunteering you have been directed to the organization by "a body appointed by law, or approved by the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare as authorized to direct volunteers [to volunteer work]." In my case, so I was informed, "you acted on your private initiative and offered to vol-

unteer at [...] independently, and without prior direction as stipulated in Paragraph 287 of the law. Hence, you are not considered a volunteer according to the law, and your claim is rejected."

I wish to stress that it is not so much the rejection of the claim for compensation to which I am objecting. I simply find it annoying and absurd that because of a mere technicality I am not considered a "volunteer." True, ignorance of the law does not absolve the citizen from obeying it. But how is he supposed to know that he should be aware before volunteering to a charity organization?

ALICE RAPHAEL

Haifa.

RESOLVE WITH PRAYER

Sir - I was appalled by Naomi Ragen's article "Think Again" (February 16). She says that "We who have lived through the 20th century know better..."

What does she know better? Does she think that the State of Israel could have been born without the work of those religious Jews who prayed and studied and toiled - yes toiled - the land? Does she think only her type of Jew burned in the crematoriums and suffered at the hands of the Nazis? But her lack of knowledge of Jewish thought and values is per-

haps most upsetting. She compares the religious to those who danced around the golden calf. But at least those Jews hoped the golden calf would lead them closer to God. Ragen dances with the golden calf, looking for a new Judaism, one that defines a Jew by her hateful, bigoted standard. I too watched the protest. Some of my children were drawn to one side, some to the other. They have all attended or attend yeshivot. They have all served or serve in the army. But none of them look down on either group.

They, like me, were proud that at least among the great sea of religious Jews that filled my screen, no disparaging remarks were made at the protest. There were prayers. Perhaps not the prayers that Naomi Ragen believes in, but I feel certain, they were prayers that God enjoyed hearing.

May we all learn to solve our differences and resolve our hatreds with such prayers.

YAAKOV PETERSEIL

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On February 18, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that Austrian Jews lived on exaggerated hopes and had closed their eyes to the coming danger - the spread of National Socialism.

50 years ago: On February 18, 1949, *The Palestine Post* reported that Israel's first President, Dr.

Chaim Weizmann, took the oath of office at a brief and simple ceremony in Jerusalem. US Export-Import Bank officials disclosed that most of the \$35m. loan to Israel would be devoted to agricultural purposes and irrigation.

25 years ago: On February 18,

1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Egypt and Saudi Arabia urged the US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, to arrange a speedy disengagement of the Israeli and Syrian forces by a shuttle between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Alexander Zvielli

Keep out!

URI DAN

It is to be hoped that the Americans will restrain themselves this time, and will not involve themselves in Israel's election campaign on behalf of one candidate or another, as they did in the past two elections.

In 1992, president George Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, worked in a most vulgar fashion to bring down prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and end the Likud's rule.

They succeeded, and after Yitzhak Rabin gained power, he admitted, at least indirectly (among other instances, in an interview with Yeshayahu Ben-Porat in *Yediot Aharanot*) that the US administra-

tion, on the eve of Israel's 1992 elections, continued to deride him as "stubborn" and "recalcitrant" and delayed the approval of the \$10 billion in loan guarantees Israel was seeking to aid in absorbing the waves of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The spigots opened again only after Rabin became prime minister, and particularly after Rabin and Peres presented the White House with a newly kosher Arafat, wrapped in the Oslo agreements.

AFTER Rabin's assassination, when Shimon Peres ran against Binyamin Netanyahu in 1996, the

There are worrisome signs that the US may again try to interfere in the Israeli elections

tion had intervened against Shamir. Once Bush had been defeated by Bill Clinton, James Baker proudly confirmed this.

It should be noted that Shamir suffered this slap in the face even though - or perhaps because - he fulfilled all the instructions and commands he had received from Washington. He forced all Israeli Jews into sealed rooms during January-February 1991, when an angry Bush ordered him and defense minister Moshe Arens not to attack the Scud missile launchers in western Iraq that were blasting away at Greater Tel Aviv.

After that, when Baker demanded that Shamir attend the Madrid Conference, even though PLO representatives would be there, Shamir capitulated again. He acted like an ostrich and ignored that fact that he was essentially sending his representatives to negotiate with the emissaries of Yasser Arafat. This, of course, paved the way for the next capitulation, that of Rabin, who signed the dangerous Oslo Accords and gave the PLO Israel's seal of approval.

All these concessions by Shamir didn't help him much. The admin-

istration once again hurried to intervene on behalf of the Labor Party candidate. This time, though, its efforts failed, even though they were exceedingly blatant.

Not only did President Clinton and his aides make statements in support of Peres before the elections; they actively worked to shore him up.

When the series of suicide bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem made it seem that Peres's chances were fading, Clinton hurried to the Middle East for an "international summit against terror" in Sharm e-Sheikh.

Of course, this summit did not reduce terror whatsoever, as the US itself learned only three months later, when its troops were bombed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and again last August, when its embassies were bombed in Kenya and Tanzania. But that shouldn't surprise, that whole summit had been convened essentially to help Peres in his close race against Netanyahu.

These two instances of unprecedented US interference in Israel's elections did nothing to strengthen Israel's young and fragile democracy. On the contrary - it consti-

The View From the East

DAUD KUTTAB

Confederation contemplation

Con-fed-er-a-tion: A league of states previously independent - *The Grosset Webster Dictionary*

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat surprised many last week when he suggested in a speech given to the People's Party annual conference that he was still in favor of confederal solution between Palestine and Jordan.

Jordanian officials were quick to respond that it is premature to talk about a confederation. They said that this issue should be talked about once an independent Palestinian state is established.

Newspaper reports linked the timing of Arafat's speech to a meeting he had previously had with Labor Party MK Shimon Peres. Other commentators said that US State Department official Martin Indyk had been behind the idea. Some even went as far as saying that Jordan's former crown prince Hassan had opposed the idea and that was why he was replaced.

All these unsubstantiated rumors aside, the people of the region were surprised about this sudden announcement. Why now? A little background information will help.

The idea of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation has been around for quite some time. The Palestinian National Council had approved the idea of the confederation of two independent states, subject to the free and voluntary agreement of both peoples. The late PLO leader Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) had repeatedly said that the Palestinians wanted one minute of independence, and then they would gladly enter a confederal agreement with Jordan.

The main objection of Jordanians to this idea is their fear that in the long run this will harm Jordanian national identity. With Palestinians constituting the business leadership and the majority of the population in the Hashemite kingdom, such an alliance might further dilute Jordan's attempts to maintain a distinctive national political color.

Publicly, however, Jordanian officials express fear that a premature discussion of confederation will play into the hands of the Israelis, who are trying to deny Palestinian nationalism and statehood.

A FEW years ago, the late King Hussein gave an angry speech in which he said he no longer wanted to hear the word confederation. Since then, Palestinian officials have refrained from discussing it.

But with the death of Hussein, the

Palestinian leader apparently felt that it was an opportune time to raise the issue again, especially in light of the difficulties that May 4 will pose.

On this day, Palestinians have been told a state will be declared because this is the last day of the transitional self-rule period as stipulated in the Oslo Accords.

But this date happens to fall 13 days before the crucial Israeli national elections. Analysts believe that the Israeli public will no doubt be more supportive of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if a state is declared. The right-wing leader supports neither Palestinian statehood nor the confederation of such a state with Jordan, neither one minute after its declaration nor a minute before.

The Labor Party, on the other hand, has always pushed this option. In the summer of 1994, when I interviewed the late Yitzhak Rabin, I asked him what he expected the future of the West Bank and Gaza will be in 15 years or more.

His answer was: "I hope it will be some kind of entity with special relations with Jordan."

Whether the idea of confederation plays into the hands of the Labor Party or not, there is certainly no harm in talking about it. While Palestinian aspirations must remain focused on freedom and

independence, there are many who are rethinking the long-term strategy.

A quick look at the world around us shows that as we approach the 21st century, states are grouping up for economic, social and even political benefit. Former enemies in Europe have all but removed the political and economic borders between them. Why shouldn't the Middle East think the same way?

Most Palestinians agree that the future Palestinian state should have special relations with both Israel and Jordan. In addition to confederating with Jordan, some go as far as suggesting a similar relationship between Palestine and Israel, creating a three-state confederation or even federation.

What Palestinians as well as Jordanians and Israelis need is the right and the opportunity to think out loud about all the different options. Israel has by and large refused to think about the long-term future of its closest neighbors, the Palestinians. But Jordanians and Palestinians should not be as fearful of thinking about the future. Denying anyone the right to discuss any of these legitimate options is tantamount to burying one's head in the sand.

Hot tips

The frozen melting pot

HELEN SCHARY MOTRO

termed "Sephardim" are further subdivided into Middle Easterners and North Africans, each with an intricate internal pecking order. Distinctions are endlessly refined: cosmopolitans from capitals like Casablanca or Baghdad have more *yehus* than mountain or country folk.

Description of candidate Yitzhak Mordechai as "Sephardi" by a newspaper commentator triggered a

play on one set of courts, learning disabled on another, and the "regular sabras" on yet a third.

Perhaps the tennis centers feel constrained by their constituency, for when the center in Ofakim tried to invite all the town's children to play together, the religious sector adamantly declined to mix with the rest.

Israelis fling open the gates - and then never let you forget where you came from

pointed letter of protest to the editor: "Iraqi Jews," it observed tersely, "are not of Spanish origin."

Tourists who effuse about so many different types of Jews together miss the eddies beneath the surface. It takes time to distinguish the ethnic groups, but every immigrant develops the knack.

At 12 locations around the country the Israel Tennis Center runs many commendable social programs targeted at disadvantaged children. But worthy as their objectives are, the premise is to take each group separately. In Beersheba, Beduin children

THE fences between the courts don't come down in real life, either. A new complex of apartment buildings going up in country's heartland offers a lesson in pre-emptory segregation. Prospective buyers are asked at the sales office if their interest lies in the building designated for the knitted kippot, the one for the black kippot, the "Anglo-Saxon" building, or the secular one.

An Orthodox couple from a multi-ethnic neighborhood in the US beat a hasty retreat when asked to label their preferences - and by extension, themselves.

As Israeli society becomes more violent, resentment between groups explodes into physical enmity. The murder of a 22-year-old immigrant stabbed for the crime of talking Russian received international attention.

Even the army is not the melting pot legends make it out to be. Stories emerge of Ethiopian soldiers verbally and even physically abused at their army bases.

The name of the Israeli game is polarization: politically, racially, religiously, socio-economically. Popular wisdom gives its usual catch-all excuse for national fragmentation: the unremitting stress of Israeli life catalyzes a retreat into the safe cocoon of familiarity. Separate feels natural. So natural that integration begins to look suspect.

People enjoy disdaining their neighbors worldwide - but nowhere else do they beg them to move in. Here they fling open the gates; then they never let you forget where you came from.

A doctor born in Soviet Georgia wryly observed, "We Georgians are neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardi, and for the Israelis we aren't Israeli, either."

הכרזה מן האוכל

Weekender

Hollywood falls in love with Shakespeare

Suddenly he has become Tinsel Town's favorite screenwriter — but with a modern twist, writes Catherine Milner



The hottest star in Hollywood is not likely to be seen driving along Sunset Boulevard in a Cadillac smoking a cigar, but hanging on the wall of a ruff and velvet bachelorette party. William Shakespeare is currently the undisputed favorite screenwriter in Beverly Hills. With the plaudits for *Shakespeare in Love* still echoing, six more productions based on his plays are being released this year.

Actors have been clamoring for roles, and one of the most star-spangled upcoming productions is 20th Century Fox's version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Michael Hoffman and set in Tuscany at the turn of the century.

William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a 400-year-old whimsical romantic comedy as it's never been seen before, promises the production literature. "Water nymphs and satyrs party into the night at the fairy wars and cafes..."

But this is not the only tribute to the Bard: In pre-production is *O*, an updated version of Othello starring Mekhi Phifer and Rain Phoenix, sister of River and Leaf. The story is being told as a drama between two high school basketball warriors.

There is also a new *Hamlet* with Ethan Hawke, better known in roles as an American beefcake,

who here paces the streets of Manhattan as Shakespeare's Dane. It also stars Julia Stiles in army boots as Ophelia, and Sam Shepard as the ghost of Hamlet's father.

The action is set in the corporate world of New York where Hamlet's mother, Gertrude, and stepfather, Claudius "are in a kind of 'Ted Turner/Jane Fonda situation,'" according to Hawke, who said that his prime motivation in tackling *Hamlet* was because he did not want to "wake up at 65 not having done it."

Due to be released at the end of this year is *Titus*, a film based on Titus Andronicus. *Titus* stars Sir Anthony Hopkins and is directed by Julie Taymor, the force behind Disney's enormous success *The Lion King*. It is set — at the beginning at least — in Rome in 1 CE, and ends in the year 2000. "Titus is a great general. He could be Colin Powell or Norman Schwarzkopf," Ms. Taymor said.

BUT the film world's biggest Shakespeare fan is Kenneth Branagh, whose Shakespeare Film Company will make three films in three years to be distributed by Miramax. *Love's Labour's Lost* starring Alicia Silverstone, of *Clueless* fame, and Nathan Lane is set to songs by Cole Porter, George Gershwin and Irving Berlin. After that Mr. Branagh will do *Macbeth*, in which Cawdor Castle and Dunsinane Wood will be exchanged for the skyscrapers of New York and bushes of Central Park, and *Macbeth* and his evil wife will work on Wall Street. Equally surprising is the third in Branagh's trilogy, *As You Like It*, exchanges the play's traditional

setting of an English forest for Kyoto in Japan.

Branagh says that the success of films such as the 1996 *Romeo and Juliet* starring Leonardo di Caprio have given financiers and producers more confidence in backing films based on Shakespeare. "Going into a room and saying, 'Hey guys, I'd like to make a musical version of an obscure Shakespeare comedy' isn't as hard as it used to be."

Michael Attenborough, the principle associate director of the Royal Shakespeare Company said: "I can only find it very exciting. They've put Shakespeare back into the center of popular culture — not just the elite."

Ray Bennett, the European editor of *Hollywood Reporter*, explained that the popularity of Shakespeare might in part be the result of a lack of inspiration elsewhere. Hollywood directors complain that there are no good scripts around, and whenever a new novel appears on the market a furious bidding war begins.

He said this is the result of the "funnel effect" in Hollywood: "The problem is not that there's no room at the top in Hollywood, but there's no room at the bottom. A lot of great screenplays never get seen by directors because the young people who screen the scripts have no experience."

He added: "You can't ignore the fact that Shakespeare was incredibly poetic and his themes were universal. But even though they add class to the production schedules I think people in Hollywood will always think films like *Armageddon* are where it's really at." (The Sunday Telegraph)



Kenneth Branagh as Iago in his 'Othello' which joined his other Shakespeares, 'Henry V' and 'Much Ado About Nothing.' Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes (above) dance their hearts out in Oscar-nominated 'Shakespeare in Love.' (AP)

Hot tip

By DANIELA SCHINDLIN

Tel Aviv

Tzavta happens to be an intimate setting for shows, with its small performance, balls and underground isolation from the city bustle above. It is therefore the perfect place to spend this weekend in Tel Aviv. Tonight and Friday night, the indefatigable rhythm of Myamanna fills the space of Tzavta 1, the bigger hall, starting at 9 p.m. (9:30 p.m. on Friday).

Alongside these acrobats is the energetic, garden-like character from *Florentine*. Ami Shmuelchik, who performs his one-man fringe play, *Shmuelchik* (in Tzavta 2). Also on Friday night, Domingo Gross performs *Hit and Run*, starting at 8:30 p.m. in Tzavta 2.

Saturday night is the thrill of the week, as the melodic and sometimes melancholy pianist/singer, Roni Kleinstein performs in Tzavta 1. Starting at 9 p.m. (9:30 p.m. on Friday).

The musical scene only gets better. Danny Sanderson, the funny bone of the legendary Kaveret group, will sing and be generally witty tonight at the Enav Cultural Center, starting at 9:30 p.m. Alternatively, abandon the old-timey and admit that new rock is here to stay. The newfangled stuff can be heard tonight, and every Thursday night, at Beit Lessan. Starts at 10:30 p.m. (03) 694-1111.

By way of theater, Habimah is offering *Veronica's Room* this evening starting at 9 p.m. Call (03) 620-7771 for tickets.

Cosily settled into its new venue — the Noga Theater in Jaffa (not too far from the old Geshen Theater) — the Geshen Theater is on stage tonight at 8:30 p.m. with City: *Odessa Stories*, based on the work of the classic Russian Jewish writer Isaac Babel. (03) 681-6433.

Jerusalem

New and interesting rock 'n' roll is not just a Tel Aviv phenomenon, thanks to the Pargod Theater. Tonight, two new groups play as a pair: 40 Degrees is a rock group that will perform original versions of songs based on poems, and The Young Puritans are their rock partners for the evening from 9 p.m. on. Call (02) 625-8819 for details.

Like Tel Aviv, all the action is concentrated geographically this weekend. On Saturday night, the ethnic music pioneers Habretra Hativit — billed here as "the most



Shlomo Bar (with drum) and Habretra Hativit

popular Israeli ethnic band" — performs at the Pargod starting at 9:30 p.m. (02) 625-8819.

Pop, too, is ubiquitous and predominant in Jerusalem this weekend. Tonight heartthrob-pop star Nimrod Lev appears at the Yellow Submarine, with his crooning (if slightly kitschy) singles. Starts at 10 p.m.

Gloomy existentialist types are invited to a new Center Stage Production of Sartre's *No Exit*. This English-language production, directed by Jed Silverstein, is a surprisingly substantive, worth a visit to the lovely German Colony. At the Mercat Hamagshimim, 7a Dor Vedorshav. Call (02) 561-

9165 for information.

And Points Beyond

The events that make this weekend special are to be found, outside the big cities.

Rishon LeZion is the locale of the Acoustic Evening for women at the new Culture Hall (Heichal Hatarbut, 16 Jabotinsky). The all-star cast is almost too good to be true — it includes Zehava Ben, Dana Berger, and Ahuva Nini. Starts at 9:30 p.m. Call Camelot for tickets. (03) 528-5222. The show is part of the Corona Unplugged series.

Where Iris and Ofer Portugaly show up, good music is sure to follow. This friendly pair performs jazz tunes alongside Shai Alon and Oded Goldsmith at the Ebner Auditorium in Rehovot, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Angios up north have a great opportunity to see a modern comedy classic tonight and Saturday night. Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* (The Female Version), will be performed in English by the Haifa English Theater. The event takes place at 8:30 p.m., at the Haifa Museum.

English is also available tonight at the Wix Auditorium in Rehovot, where *Run for Your Life* is being staged by the Theater of Comedy Company. This production

features the original cast from the West End company in what is now London's longest-running comedy.

On Saturday night, the whole production heads to the Haifa Auditorium. Call (04) 837-6841 for show times and information in Haifa and (08) 934-3352 for Rehovot.

Feeling a bit uptight after all those English and British events? The only real way to loosen up is to dance, and dirty at that. The Coco Loco carnival with Brazil at Ga'ash is just the venue, a two-day festival combining samba, salsa and lots of action. The party takes place in the Big Hall, call (03) 544-5224 for information.

What's in a name?

By MARK KENNEDY

What's in a name? Joseph Fiennes, the United Kingdom's latest It Boy, has a very modern answer for that old Shakespearean query: not so jolly much, actually.

Yes, that's right. He's Ralph's kid brother. The name gets the door open but you still have to pass through it. Fiennes says: "Does a name matter? I don't know. I still have to do the work."

As the latest addition to the burgeoning brood of stars that includes Ewan McGregor and Jude Law, the brooding handsome Fiennes is well aware of the pitfalls of a famous name.

"I can understand the interest and the parallel being drawn, but I can't rely on them. People care about me, it's really hard to make up their minds."

Rightly, they already have. The 28-year-old thespian has won praise from critics and audiences for his performances in *Elizabeth* opposite Cate Blanchett and *Shakespeare in Love* with Gwyneth Paltrow. Both films got Golden Globe awards and have been nominated for the Oscars with *Shakespeare in Love* leading the pack with 13 nominations.

"I'm more than a little frightened at all this attention," says Fiennes. On the day of the interview, he's wearing a gray herringbone suit.

"Hollywood is such a machine. It's a beast which I'm very wary of because I've got nothing to say, nothing to wait, nothing which is sensible or that's going to change anyone's life."

Joseph is the youngest — along with his twin brother Jake — of seven Fiennes. A gypsy-like clan that moved more than a dozen times around England and Ireland during their early childhood.

Their nomadic upbringing, Fiennes says, prepared him perfectly for a career in acting. "When you're thrown into a new school every few years, you learn all your communication skills, you learn how to adapt. I was never reinventing myself."

The experience also seems to have rubbed off on his siblings. All except one of the Fiennes brood is currently employed in the arts. "We're a little mafia," he says happily.

Fiennes was crowned during Joseph's six-month stint on London's West End in *A View From the Bridge* and his prized role opposite



Darkly handsome Joe Fiennes is young Will 'Shakespeare in Love.' (AP)

Helen Mirren in *A Month in the Country*. Fiennes won't travel during his two-year tour at the acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company, where he tackled the prickly Troilus — just five years after Ralph, the star of *The English Patient*, had taken the part.

So when director John Madden — armed with a crackling script by Marc Norman and Tony Stoppard — began casting about for a young man to portray Will Shakespeare, Fiennes emerged as a perfect candidate.

"I began to wonder whether I was ever going to be able to find anybody of whom one would believe that he had written the plays," says Madden, who also directed *Mrs. Brown*. "You look at him and he somehow seems perfect," adds Madden.

"Shakespeare's been in his blood for a long time. He understands and celebrates the language. The role so unquestionably belongs to him. Joe is the man."

Fiennes is part Heathcliff, part Romeo in

black leather.

"I have such a passion for Shakespeare that I didn't want to sell him out as a cheap cartoon character with floppy hair and that goatee," Fiennes says. "I wanted him modern and sexy and dynamic and slightly enigmatic. Not a Disney idea of what he is." In other words, a makeover of Elizabethan proportions.

"Look, he was a genius. Yes, of course. But he was also a gypsy and a wheeler-dealer and he stole and he plagiarized. He was a survivor," Fiennes says.

"He was a normal young guy who was exactly my age when he wrote these plays. He drank, he fought, he fell madly in love, he cursed. We have to humanize him." (AP)

Elizabeth opens locally tonight, and *Shakespeare in Love* is due to hit screens March 4.

(On My Mind and After Hours will return next week.)

Weekender

Food & Drink

The Joy of soy



By SUZANNE LOUDERMILK

Soy — it's what's for dinner. And breakfast. And lunch these days.

At least, that's what food consultants are predicting — and nutritionists and dietitians are urging.

"The health-conscious will search for nutritious foods, like soy, to feel good about in 1999," says Dianne Keeler Bruce of New York-based DKB Consulting, which tracks food trends. "We are going to be seeing a lot more soy products."

Soy — which has been popular in Asian cultures for centuries — finally has come into the spotlight, showing up in foods that please even the most suspicious of palates. It is being assimilated into a variety of favorite foods from pumpkin bread to vegetable soup to macaroni and cheese.

Still, trying to promote a plant food, like soy, in a traditionally meat-loving nation is not easy.

"Most people don't change their eating habits overnight," says dietitian Colleen Pierre, who is a spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association. "I kind of suggest people should try one vegetable meal and one animal meal a day."

Even celebrities are praising the little legume. Food-lover Rosie O'Donnell has revealed an affinity for soy burgers. And Oprah featured the protein-packed bean on a recent show.

But soy's nutritional wallop — with its many essential vitamins and minerals, including B vitamins, folic acid and iron — is only part of the attraction.

It also is being linked to preventing cancer, lowering cholesterol, reducing heart disease, relieving menopausal symptoms and preventing osteoporosis. Currently, the US Food and Drug Administration is considering a ruling to allow soy-protein products to carry heart-healthy labels on food packaging.

With all these claims, the days when we wrinkled our noses at strange-sounding soy foods like tofu, tempeh, yuba and miso are past.

"When I would mention the words 'soy' or 'tofu,' people would make a face," says nutritionist Sanaa Abourezk, author of *Oh Boy, I Can't Believe It's Soy* (Palmyra Publishing Co., 1998). "They would say it was tasteless and hold that against it. As a cook, it's an advantage."

TOFU has a wonderful propensity for absorbing the flavor of surrounding foods without affecting overall taste. Add extra-firm cubed tofu to a dish like Spicy Tofu, Cheese and Green Chili Enchiladas, and you savor Mexican flavors, not some unfamiliar texture.

In her new cookbook, *Abourezk*, who has a master's degree in nutrition, offers more than 100 "gourmet" soy recipes, including tiramisu, falafel, tarragon pasta, and potatoes with coriander.

"I started experimenting [with soy] and would give some to my neighbors," says the Syrian native. "When I told them it was soy, they would say, 'No way.'"

Incorporating soy into our diets is becoming increasingly easier, with more soy cookbooks and Web sites available. Log onto www.soyfoods.com and find recipes for applesauce cake made with soy flour; pasta with a cream sauce made from soy milk; meat and vegetables stir-fried in soy oil; and easy-day vegetable lasagna with tofu.

Soy's increased availability and better processing also have made it more palatable to Western taste buds.

"Up until two or three years ago, soy was considered a fringe food here," says nutrition consultant and registered dietitian Anne Patterson. "Now, it's been mainstreamed into supermarkets."

Improved soy foods also bring variety and taste to a meal, she says. "It works in the center of the plate [as an entree], as a snack, as a dessert. It works with every food group."

A growing demand for soy products is forecast, whether varieties of tofu, protein alternatives for ground beef, soy shakes, roasted soybeans or frozen soy desserts. More and more people are buying into the health and nutritional claims.

While researchers still are exploring how soy works on the human body, strong evidence suggests that the different types of phytochemicals and antioxidant properties found in soy are responsible for its healthful impact.

"We know our diets should be more plant-based," Pierre says.

"Substituting soy is one way to shift our total eating to a more plant-based one." How much we should eat for optimal results varies, according to health professionals.

Some say two or three servings a week. Others say one meal a day. Recommended consumption is between 40 and 60 grams of soy per day. For example, one-half cup of cooked soybeans has 14 grams per serving; 1 cup of soy milk has 7 grams; and one-half cup of tofu has 10 grams.

There also are powdered soy supplements, which can boost intake. A 30-gram portion provides about 24 grams of protein per serving. Stir it into a smoothie or sprinkle some over cereal.

For lowering cholesterol, as little as 25 grams of soy protein a day may be added.

When it comes to alleviating menopausal symptoms, the amount of soy needed is "all over the board," Patterson says. "We really don't have an exact amount we can tell people. There is not conclusive evidence."

Some research indicates that soy foods, which are a rich source of phytoestrogens (plant estrogens), may help compensate for the lack of natural estrogen production.

Many nutritionists point out there is no word for hot flash in Japanese, a culture that has consumed soy foods for hundreds of years.

While the health effects of soy continue to be explored, everyone seems to agree the food is nutritionally beneficial. Some even call it a wonder food.

But it is not a panacea, nutritionists point out. We should still strive to eat a well-balanced, low-fat diet for overall health.

"It's just a soybean," Patterson says. "We're treating it as a medicine. This is an old bean with a new twist that also can help you."

Here are some recipes for soy-based dishes.

TIRAMISU
350 gr. light tofu, pureed
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
3 Tbsp. Bailey's Irish Cream, optional
4 Tbsp. maple syrup
350 gr. parve or regular whipped cream
2 packages ladyfingers
1 cup strong coffee
2 Tbsp. cocoa powder

Mix the pureed tofu with vanilla extract, Bailey's Irish Cream, if using, and the maple syrup until well blended.

Fold the tofu mixture into the cream.

Cut the ladyfingers so they will fit neatly into a cheesecake (springform) pan.

Quickly dip each ladyfinger into the strong coffee. Do not soak them or they will fall apart. Place ladyfingers next to each other, against the pan wall. Then cover the bottom of the pan with them. You will have a mold.

Spoon tofu mixture inside the ladyfinger mold, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 48 hours.

Sprinkle top with cocoa powder.

SPICY TOFU, CHEESE AND GREEN CHILI ENCHILADAS

300 gr. extra-firm tofu, cut into small cubes
150 gr. chopped green chilies
1 cup corn kernels, frozen, fresh or canned, optional
1 cup shredded mozzarella
¼ cup taco sauce or salsa
¼ cup chopped coriander
6 flour tortillas
300 gr. enchilada sauce
sliced olives, optional

Heat oven to 220°. Combine tofu, chilies, corn if using, ¼ cup of the tofu, taco sauce and coriander in medium bowl. Mash together with fork until combined. Spoon mixture evenly onto tortillas; roll up. Place seam-side down in 30x25 cm baking pan sprayed with nonstick vegetable oil spray. Top with enchilada sauce and remaining tofu.

Bake until bubbly and lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes. Sprinkle with coriander and olives, if using.

(Serves 6.)

PUMPKIN BREAD
¾ cup sifted soy flour
1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
¼ cup baking powder
¼ cup baking soda
1½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground cloves
¼ tsp. nutmeg
¼ tsp. salt
¼ cup vegetable shortening
1 cup sugar

In a blender or food processor, combine all the dressing ingredients until smooth.

Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours to allow flavors to develop. Serve with your favorite salad greens. (Serves 10.)

2 eggs, well-beaten
½ cup pumpkin
2 Tbsp. water

Sift and measure soy flour and all-purpose flour. Measure other dry ingredients except sugar, and sift together with flours. Set aside.

Cream shortening and add sugar gradually, creaming well. Add eggs and beat until light.

Blend in pumpkin and water. Add dry ingredients in two portions, blending well after each addition.

Pour batter into a greased loaf pan. Bake at 175° for 1 to 1½ hours. Remove loaf from pan immediately and cool on a wire rack. Batter also may be cooked in muffin pans.

(Serves 12)

CREAMY HERB MISO DRESSING
½ cup soy milk
¼ cup white miso
¼ cup rice vinegar (available at health-food stores)
¼ cup onions, chopped
1 Tbsp. fresh basil, chopped
1 Tbsp. fresh tarragon, chopped
1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
1 tsp. honey
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. coriander powder

In a blender or food processor, combine all the dressing ingredients until smooth.

Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours to allow flavors to develop. Serve with your favorite salad greens. (Serves 10.)

(The Baltimore Sun)



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

Shop Till You Drop

(of hunger)
You'll never have to shop till you drop of hunger again if you shop at Cosmos, the new giant department store that just opened not far from all the other stores (Toys R Us, Ace, etc.) at Kibbutz Ga'ash. The second in a line of Cosmos stores to come (the first is in Haifa), this store is more than a supermarket. There's a pharmacy, cosmetic and toiletries department, fashion for men, women and children, housewares, a toy department, baby department, and more — in a huge store that includes a very special cafeteria with mini-restaurants like Whitehall, Fu Sing (Aharoni), Pastalina (Italian).

A Second Cup of Coffee
It seems that, when Israelis get into something, they go for it big. Years ago, there was just the neighborhood coffee house — but today there are already cafe chains. We're not talking about restaurant chains, like Alexander's or Cherry; we're talking about the kind of place where the coffee itself is king and everything else is secondary. While Starbucks, of American fame, seems to have pooh-poohed the idea of expanding its franchise to Israel, Second Cup —

an international cafe chain originating in Canada — has agreed to set up shop with the locals. At the present time, Second Cup has 850 branches in Canada and the US, and now four in Israel: two in Jerusalem, and one each in Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan.

The international chain buys and roasts its own coffee which is shipped here in specially designed bags which allow the coffee beans to breathe but no oxygen to penetrate. The outlets also have baked goods and various coffee, tea, hot chocolate and other beverage accessories.

While I wasn't crazy about the coffee (it arrived warm instead of hot and was not distinctive), the teas I tried were delicious, and they have a set of do-it-yourself gift packages that would definitely make your favorite coffee- or tea-lover happy. NIS 10-16 for 100 gr. of premium ground coffee. Boxes of 20 teabags go for NIS 12.

Spray Garlic (good)

Is it the ultimate in laziness or in convenience? It's bottled garlic juice to spray on your food. Along with natural garlic juice and salt, it contains natural acetic acid (found in apples, cheese, cocoa, coffee and grapes) and natural citric acid (from citrus fruits or by the fermentation of crude sugars). Eight sprays equal 1 tsp. or one clove. It's a good gimmick, fun to use, helps keep the garlic press clean, and adds a good final touch. Does it have all the goodness of fresh garlic with regard to nutrients? Hard to believe. But it's handy to have around, especially when you run out of garlic.

The manufacturers suggest spraying mashed potatoes while mashing, spraying some on to "garlic" bread, mixing it in salad dressing or while tossing, adding to vegetables and meats and soups during the last minute of cooking, and touching up pasta sauce. Each bottle has over 150 cloves of juice.

A plastic spray bottle of 237 litres sells for NIS 23.40.

Apropos Snacks

Apropos, one of Osem's popular savory snacks, is now out in a baked version, which brings the fat content down to 5%. According to the company, this new product is part of their new policy of creating foods that are "Better For You" (it's about time, if you ask me). The reason for Osem's down-fattening of Apropos lies in the fact that most consumers of the product are over 25 years old and are more health conscious, which makes the "no preservative" label on the bag look ever so impressive. But don't forget the product also contains an artificial antioxidant and unidentified emulsifiers. It's a better choice than their regular version, and the kids liked the taste.

Baked Apropos is sold in two sizes: 40 gr. for NIS 4.05 and 80 gr. for NIS 6.85.

NOTE TO READER ANN GOLAN OF JERUSALEM:

Thanks for your letter regarding "Boucher" Plates imported by Tuxedo Catering. I was unaware that the Boucher family of Germany "joined their Nazi countrymen" during World War II. I think however, that your indignation should be addressed to Tuxedo and not to me.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Could you please tell me where I can buy sweet pickle relish?

— Amy Schwartz, Givatayim

Although the question of pickle relish has been quite exhausted by this column, I've recently received the name of a company who specializes in it.

It's called "That's Relish" (which in Hebrew transliterates to *Da'at Relish* on the Hebrew portion of the label). They are found in Yishuv Elazar, Gush Etzion, and their telephone number is (02) 993-2054.

We have a lot of windfall grapefruit from our trees this year. Each year I make a mixed citrus marmalade, but now I have only the grapefruit. I wondered if I could make a concentrated grapefruit cordial to be added to water or soda. All of the recipes I have call for citric acid, which I do not want to use. Do you have a suggestion?

— Greta Riesel, Ramat Hasharon

My sources don't have a grapefruit cordial, but here is a recipe for fruit syrup from *Preserving* by Oded Schwartz. The original recipe is with other fruit but I'm

sure you can use grapefruit as well.

1 kg peeled grapefruit
75 ml. water
granulated sugar

Put the grapefruit flesh and water into a bowl and mash well. Set over a pan of simmering water for 1 hour, mashing occasionally. Pour into a sterilized jelly bag or pillowcase and leave for a few hours or until it stops dripping. Squeeze the bag to extract as much liquid as possible.

Strain the juice again. For every 500 ml. juice (2 cups) use 400 gr. sugar. Put in a pan and bring to a boil stirring occasionally until the sugar has dissolved. Skim off froth and boil for 4-5 minutes. Do not overcook.

Pour into hot sterilized bottles and cork. Leave to cool, then seal with wax, or store in the refrigerator. Dilute the mixture with water for a beverage, or pour over desserts and ice cream.

I have been looking for the conical-shaped ceramic pot used in cooking Moroccan tajines, but have not been able to find one in Israel.

— Judy Stavsky, Jerusalem

I've just been informed that Tollmans will be selling a tajine pot made by Le Crenset.

OUR READERS WRITE:
Here is my recipe for almond and garlic soup, in response to Yosef Gilboa's request.

about 20 whole almonds

Cut and serve.

SPICY TOFU, CHEESE AND GREEN CHILI ENCHILADAS

300 gr. extra-firm tofu, cut into small cubes
150 gr. chopped green chilies
1 cup corn kernels, frozen, fresh or canned, optional
1 cup shredded mozzarella
¼ cup taco sauce or salsa
¼ cup chopped coriander
6 flour tortillas
300 gr. enchilada sauce
sliced olives, optional

Heat oven to 220°. Combine tofu, chilies, corn if using, ¼ cup of the tofu, taco sauce and coriander in medium bowl. Mash together with fork until combined. Spoon mixture evenly onto tortillas; roll up. Place seam-side down in 30x25 cm baking pan sprayed with nonstick vegetable oil spray. Top with enchilada sauce and remaining tofu.

Bake until bubbly and lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes. Sprinkle with coriander and olives, if using.

(Serves 6.)

PUMPKIN BREAD
¾ cup sifted soy flour
1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
¼ cup baking powder
¼ cup baking soda
1½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground cloves
¼ tsp. nutmeg
¼ tsp. salt
¼ cup vegetable shortening
1 cup sugar

In a blender or food processor, combine all the dressing ingredients until smooth.

Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours to allow flavors to develop. Serve with your favorite salad greens. (Serves 10.)

(The Baltimore Sun)

Beer Sheva: A window to the past

Close Encounters

By Allan Rabinowitz

The phrase "from Dan unto Beersheba," appears several times in the Bible and highlights the geographical extremes of the land of Israel. The spring at Tel Dan, near the Lebanon border, flows copiously and rushes downstream even in this period of drought.

But at Tel Beer Sheva, a national park in the south, there was scarcely evidence that rain had fallen two days earlier, only some puddles in the wide gully that slices right beneath the shoulder of the tel.

Some sheep and a shepherd gathered around one shallow pool. The shepherd squatted and scooped a painful of water to his face.

"Yuk, parasites," said someone with me. But when biblical Abraham, Isaac and Jacob lived here, that shining puddle would have been a blessing.

Beersheba, in fact, frequently appears in the book of Genesis and the smallness of the tel belies the importance of the events that occurred here. Beersheba, it seems, is the only place where God communicated with each of the three patriarchs.

But a sense of the patriarchal period is gleaned more from the crusted plain riven by ravines and gullies, the tufts of shrubbery, the isolated winter puddles and the horizon of barren hills, than it is from the tel itself.

The flock, shepherd and brush in that gully, for example, suggest the accuracy of Genesis 26, in which Isaac and his men, with the discerning judgment of dwellers in marginal land, repeatedly dug wells and found water, probably in bottomland such as this.

BUT, regardless of its potential for life, ancient Beersheba was clearly on the edge of the wilderness and death. It was a land of barrenness and thirst.

Archaeologist Nelson Glueck, in his marvelous book *Rivers in the Desert*, described "the thickness of tongue, the salty crust of drying spittle, the flaking and cracking of swollen lips and the leaden flitting of limbs that attend prolonged thirst in the desert."

Genesis even more compactly and dramatically highlighted that threat when Abraham cast out Sarah's handmaid, Hagar, and the son Ishmael she bore him, "in the wilderness of Beersheba." When their water was spent, Hagar cast Ishmael under a shrub and then sat apart from him. "For she said, 'Let me not see the death of the child.' And she sat over against him, and lifted up her voice, and wept." She knew the approaching torture that would lead to death.

A climb to the top of the observation tower in the center of the tel helps fill out Abraham's story. To the northeast, the southernmost fringes of the Judean Hills slope



For drinking water, Isaac and his men repeatedly dug wells, like this one found at the Tel Beer Sheva site. (Photos: Ariel Jerolimski)

down like a dinosaur's tail. Abraham regularly traversed that stony spine between Beersheba and Hebron, as well as points farther north. To the east, the Beersheba plain slopes gently up toward Arad, then drops to the Dead Sea, and the Arava. To the west, in the direction of the modern city, the plain opens toward the coast and the ancient ports of Gaza and Ashkelon.

Abraham, in his journey from Bethel (north of Jerusalem) to Egypt, probably walked south along the Judean spine past Hebron, skirted the northern Negev desert along the plain of Beersheba, and linked with the major route paralleling the Mediterranean coast.

Similarly, a great flow of nomads, caravans, and migrating

populations seeking new land passed near this ancient crossroads in Abraham's time. They sprinkled the plains of the northern Negev and the broken highlands of the central Negev with small settlements, garnered their precious resources, and built their high places and altars.

Beersheba itself framed what might be the most pivotal story in Genesis, and one of the most revolutionary stories of developing human morality: the binding of Isaac.

The commandment to kill his son challenged Abraham's faith and the outcome of the story was a lesson to Abraham that God did not want children sacrificed, a common practice in the ancient Semitic world.

Abraham started the three-day journey from the Beersheba region

with Isaac and two youths, headed toward Mt. Moriah, which in Jewish tradition is the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Some scholars claim that logic dictates that he went the other way, south, more deeply into the Negev desert. But in either case, it was to Beersheba that Abraham and Isaac returned to dwell, and where the moral and spiritual impact of the event irrevocably transformed them.

It was here that God spoke to Isaac (Gen. 27:24) in the desert night. Here too, Jacob fooled his brother and aging father to gain a blessing, and from here he left for Haran. Then, when Jacob was an old man and on his way to join Joseph in Egypt, God spoke to him in Beersheba, telling him not to fear, "for I will there make of thee a great nation." (Gen. 46:3)

Weekender Travel



A climb to the top of the observation tower in the center of the tel provides a view of the area traversed by Abraham.

THE tel itself reveals the layout of an Israelite town dating as far back as the early 10th century BCE, built upon layers dating back 4,000 years to Abraham's time. You can walk through an outer, later Israelite gate and an inner, earlier Israelite gate, and view some reconstructed four-room dwellings which were typical of the First Temple period. Near the northeast corner, recently excavated evidence of a shaft system connected to precious water sources can be viewed but not entered.

Outside the tel, near the park's entrance, stands a reproduction of a large, four-horned altar (the original is displayed in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem). Built of carved stone and therefore contrary to biblical law, it was possibly part of a renegade cult that was condemned by the prophet Amos and smashed by King Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:4).

Perhaps you won't be taking a special trip to see a small site such as Tel Beer Sheva. But if you are in the region and want to stop by, your visit will be enhanced by bringing the Bible, a sense of thirst, and, as much as possible, an imaginative feeling of a still, silent, star-filled desert night.

Tel Beer Sheva (07) 646-7286 is located off Route 60 to the east, immediately south of Omer. It is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and to 3 p.m. on Fridays. There is an entrance fee.

Allan Rabinowitz is a licensed tour guide. He can be reached at allan@jpost.co.il



If you visit the tel, bring a Bible and drink in the landscape where God communicated with the patriarchs.

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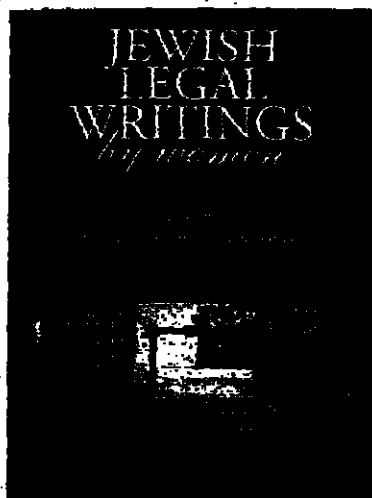
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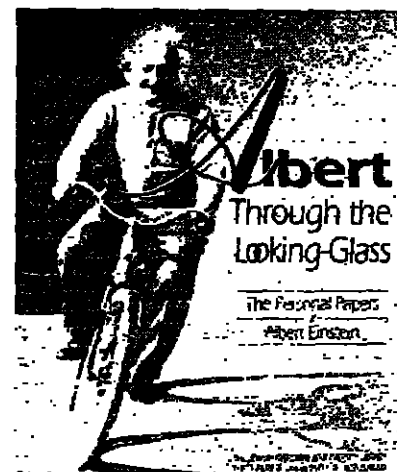
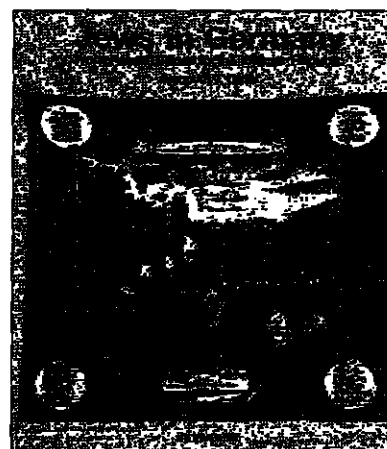
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Weekender Leisure

The wonders of eccentricity

On Camera

By DAVID BRAUNER

Developing an eye for photographing the unusual is not so much a talent as a frame of mind, an attitude. Anybody can learn to look for the oddities.

By definition, the extraordinary sight is a thing or event we don't see every day. Often, it's something that we have passed 1,000 times but never noticed, because we don't normally look up, or peek around corners.

Of course, the notion of what is a curiosity is very much in the mind of the photographer. In his book *How to Look at Photographs* (Abrams), David Finn borrows the phrase "the art of pointing" from John Szarkowski, curator of photography at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Finn expands, "You see something remarkable and point it out to someone else so that another can see what you have seen."

In other words, so much of our picture-taking is really nothing more than finger-pointing. The photograph is just a way of saying, "Hey, look at that! Isn't it strange?"

Most finger-pointing happens outside our immediate patch. As soon as we go away on vacation, to the beach, to the zoo, or to visit a different town, out come the fingers, and the cameras.

Ken Berg recently sent us some snapshots he took of a tree that had

been blown down in one of the great gales that periodically sweep over England. What was unusual was the new growth of a young tree sprouting out of the seemingly dead trunk.

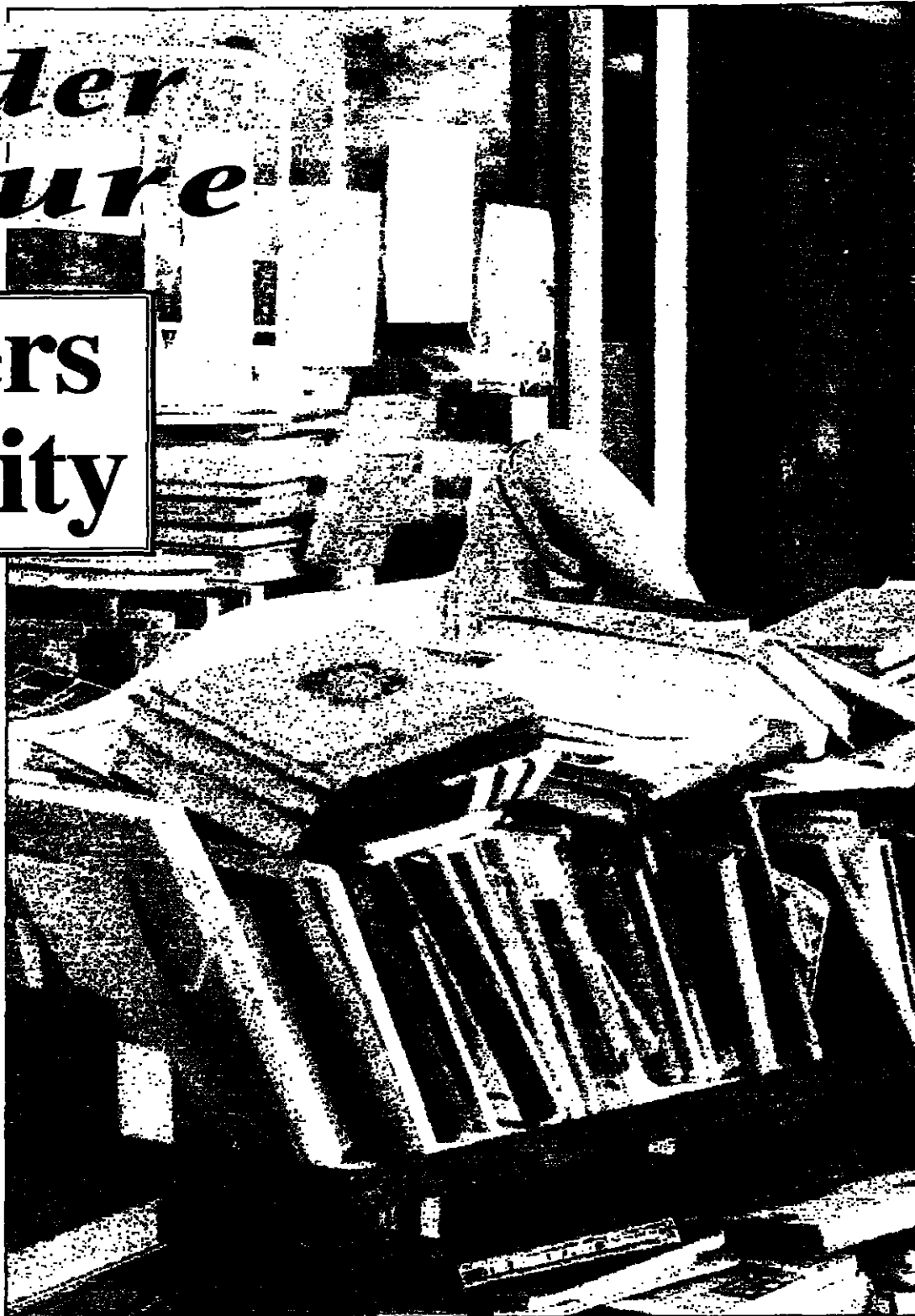
In the 1930s, English artist Paul Nash took a series of photographs of the Dorset landscape where he lived. One showed a flight of three concrete steps in the middle of an otherwise perfectly ordinary field. He later commented, "They [the steps] are unseen because they are unperceived."

In one of my old photographic albums, *Welt Ausstellung der Photographie* ("World Exhibition of Photography"), there is an outstanding picture of a sousaphone player on the beach. Not something you see every day.

He is a fat man, wearing a straw hat and flowery swim trunks; he sits in splendid isolation on a tiny folding stool. Photographer Chadwick Hall took the picture from behind, giving the impression that the sousaphonist is blowing his notes clear across the sea.

Of the classic photographers, perhaps Andre Kertesz has the greatest eye for seeing the unusual. Kertesz was born in Budapest in 1894, and eventually emigrated via Paris to New York in 1936. He was said to have had a wide-eyed sense of curiosity and wonder that never left him.

Kertesz's photography is absolutely straight. There is nothing unusual



An unexpected elbow among the books.

(Photos: David Brauner)

about the angle or point of view. The spontaneity is in the picture, not in any trick photography.

In many of his photographs, like the "Homing Ship" (1944) of a man carrying a large model sailboat

across a rain-slicked road, Kertesz captures the unexpected. His pictures often go beyond the merely odd into the realm of surrealism.

What is out of the ordinary does not necessarily have to be far from

home. Curiosities in man and nature abound everywhere, all around us.

NOT long ago I went on a walkabout near the center of Jerusalem. I first came across the wreck of a cement mixer, abandoned at the edge of Independence Park. It certainly did not belong there, but had been in place so long that the surface textures blended in with the surrounding foliage.

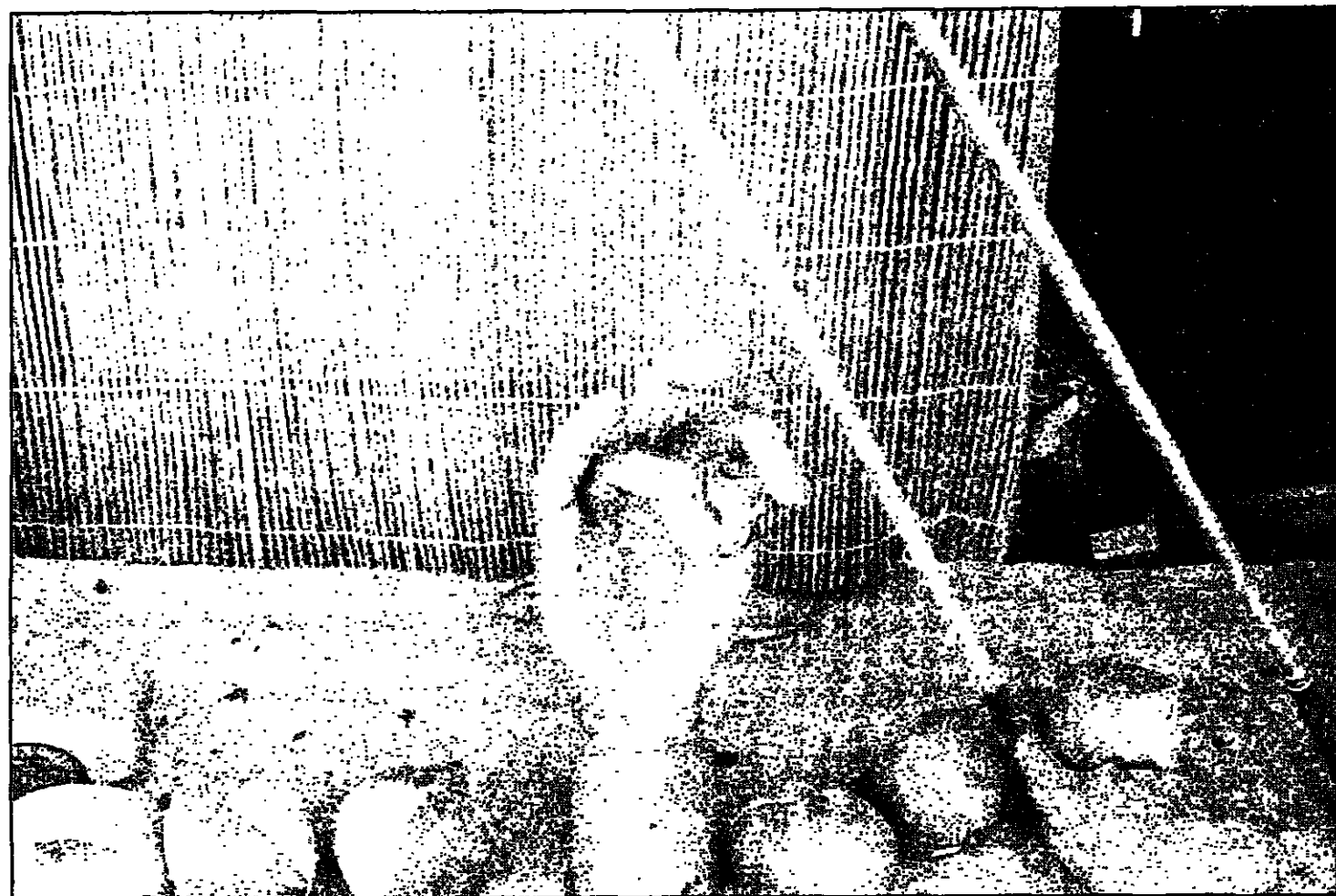
Next I encountered a most unusual display in the window of a frame-making shop. A set of hand-sewn leather balls, a artist's hand with jointed wooden fingers and two ancient golf clubs made up an absurd collection of incongruity just waiting to be photographed.

Last but not least, I approached a bookshop. I stood, waiting innocently near the outdoor shelves crammed with the five-shekel books. Passersby paused to look. Finally, one fellow got behind the shelf, and stooped down.

All that remained of him was his half-naked elbow. I got the shot I was waiting for, but until I saw it, it was totally unexpected.

All you need to build up a visual notebook of weird, screwy, off-beat pictures is a little time and, of course, a camera with you always. Oh, yes, and most importantly, you need to be in the right frame of mind to see the wonders of eccentricity.

Your photography questions and comments are welcome. Contact David Brauner, e-mail: morir@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line) or fax 02-563-7792 or c/o Photo Archives, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000.



A frame-maker's window with an incongruous display of leather balls, a wooden hand and two golf clubs.

Olfactory ambiguity

able as manly. A case in point is Gucci's Envy for Men, which is neither distinctively masculine nor feminine, but wafts deliciously somewhere between the two. Refreshing without being bouncy, and provocative without being overly sexy, his scent exudes a slightly spicy bouquet. The only real suggestion of male ambience is in the solid, square, clean-lined bottle with its oversized black square top — an architectural concept which suggests power.

Calvin Klein's Contradiction for Men is another example of olfactory ambiguity. The initially sweet fragrance, when it settles, develops a more spicy aura, but not so bold as to be indisputably mannish. In Klein's case this is no surprise, since several of his previous offerings have been he/she fragrances.

The sample box given to jour-

nalists also contains nine of more than a dozen essences used in the creation of Contradiction. The majority are not so pleasant when taken alone, but together they are seductive in their potency, giving multiple credence to two negatives making a positive.

The bottom notes include sandalwood, ebony, vetiver and patchouli. The middle notes contrast bitter cardamom and crisp coriander and are tempered by a pinch of nutmeg, while the top notes combine key lime with sage, clementine and lavender.

It's interesting that Gucci, Calvin Klein and other leading brands use the same names for both men's and women's fragrances, distinguishing them only by "for men" or "for women" descriptions on the labels.

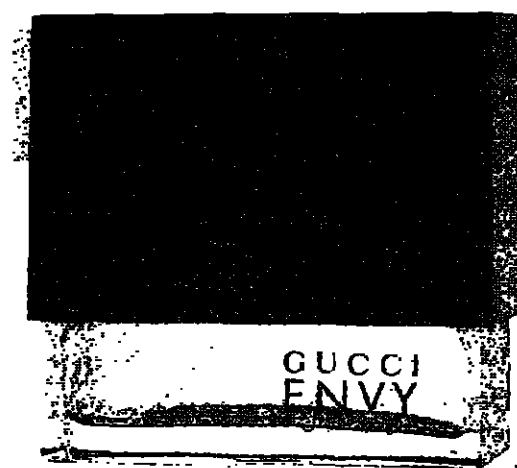
People who ignore the labels can easily interchange the scents, with often favorable results.

I never fail to be fascinated by Jean Paul Gaultier's creative packaging. His Le Male eau de toilette pocket spray with refill is

one of his most intriguing packaging efforts to date. The scent comes in what looks like a large penknife, which in fact is a metal frame from which there flips a small spray bottle instead of the customary blade. The fragrance itself is much too sweet and flirtatious to be considered male — but then again, it all depends on the body chemicals with which it comes into contact.

Ambiguity is also the word in female fragrances. Yves Saint Laurent's Vice Versa is deliberately intended as an interplay of opposites: a mixture of sweet and piquant, disruptive and playful. The typically masculine, clean-lined, no-nonsense bottle is topped by an ornate, silver-framed heart, which

when inverted, becomes a spade. Only the pinkish color of the scent is a true indication of the gender for which it is intended. A floral and fruity blend of tart and mellow fragrances, its ingredients include Florentine iris, amber, cedarwood, bluebell, peony, Indian jasmine, mandarin peel, cherry tomatoes and raspberry.



Flair

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

There's something very ambiguous and androgynous about the current crop of fragrances for men. Gone are the days when Brut, Tabac and Old Spice overwhelmed the smell of sweat with strong tangs.

Today's Renaissance man, even if he's a husky outdoors type, opts for scents that are somewhat subtler and not necessarily identi-

fied as manly. A case in point is Gucci's Envy for Men, which is neither distinctively masculine nor feminine, but wafts deliciously somewhere between the two. Refreshing without being bouncy, and provocative without being overly sexy, his scent exudes a slightly spicy bouquet. The only real suggestion of male ambience is in the solid, square, clean-lined bottle with its oversized black square top — an architectural concept which suggests power.

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Bridge

The best 'led' plans of mice and men

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

North (Birman)
♠ J 10 3
♥ K 7
♦ J 5
♣ A Q J 6 4

West (Forrester) East (Robson)
♠ 5 4 ♠ 9
♥ 9 5 4 3 2 ♥ A J 10 6
♦ A Q 10 6 4 2 ♦ 9 8 7 3
♣ — ♣ K 10 3 2

South (Zeligman)
♠ A K 8 7 6 2
♥ Q 8
♦ K
♣ 9 8 7 5

West North East South
3 ♠ 1 ♠ 3 ♠ 1 ♠
pass 3 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠

Opening lead: ♠ 2

Today's deal comes from a delightful new book by England's David Bird entitled *Famous Leads and Defenses*. The book contains 60 opening-lead or defensive problems on each right-hand page. The reader has the choice of testing himself or simply reading the full diagram on the overleaf pages.

For example, today's deal is presented only with the West hand showing, and the reader is given the bidding and asked for his choice of opening leads.

Then on the next page the full diagram appears with the true story from real life.

This hand comes from the 1992 Olympiad in a match between

England and Israel. North-South were David Birman and Shalom Zeligman.

Birman opened the bidding one spade. Now Tony Forrester (West) threw in a bid of three diamonds to make life difficult for his opponents. Birman was able to bid three spades, but then Andy Robson (East) jumped to five diamonds. West can make 11 tricks in diamonds, so Zeligman did well to bid to five spades.

Forrester was now on opening lead and saw a dramatic way to defeat the contract. He would underlead his ace-queen of diamonds to his partner's king and receive a club ruff. Then if his partner had one more trick, the contract would be defeated. But we know about the best "led" plans of mice and men.

Zeligman won the singleton king of diamonds, drew trumps, ruffed the jack of diamonds in his hand, and led a heart to the king. East won the ace and returned a heart. Zeligman won in hand and led a club to the queen. East won the king but was endplayed. He had to return a club or give a ruff-shut.

An interesting side note is that at another table where the hand was played in only four spades, West defeated the contract with a proactive opening lead of the diamond ace. West switched to a heart at trick two. East won the ace and gave his partner a club ruff, and then the defenders sat back and waited for a club trick.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached by e-mail at mat@bridgeaday.com

Chess

Good coaching the key to junior tourney

By NIGEL SHORT

IT WAS a great joy to see both Nicholas Pert and Ruth Sheldon capturing the boys' and girls' under-18 world championship titles at Oropesa del Mar, Spain.

Ruth is an important member of the British Chess Federation Olympiad team, and a previous holder of the girls' under-14 World Championship, which makes her result less unexpected than that of Nicholas Pert, whom few people would have backed as a strong contender for gold, despite his sharply improved play over recent months.

Their performances were undoubtedly helped by the presence of three excellent coaches (Stuart Conquest, Angus Dunnington and Gary Lane), which was made possible by the far-sighted sponsorship of Saitek computers.

It is a pleasant contrast to my earliest days as a junior when I travelled to these important events with a family friend; it was only later that I grasped that it was an absolute necessity to be advised by someone with a thorough knowledge of the complexities of modern tournament play.

Strangely enough, for an organisation suddenly imbued with an admirable spirit of professionalism, the British Chess Federation took the extraordinary decision not to send representatives to all the girls' events.

As Saitek money was available, the perennial problem of financial constraints was no longer an issue, and so it is hard to see what was to be gained by a policy which merely deprives young players with the opportunity of obtaining invaluable experience.

The outstanding Oakham School Junior Tournaments, sadly discontinued, contained almost everyone who is anyone in the chess world. It is very fitting, therefore, that Nicholas Pert should be a sixth former at the school.

White: Pert
Black: Sutushkin
1998

1. d4 d5 2. e3 e6 3. c4 dxc4 4. e2c3. The most annoying move order for a dedicated Queen's Gambit Accepted player to face. Probably Black's best options are to transpose to either the Slav (with 4...c6) or the Vienna (4...e6 5. e4 Bb4 6. Bg5). The

line chosen is very risky. 4...e6 5. e4 b5 6. e5 d5 7. e4 dxc3. An old variation which is no longer fashionable for reasons you will start to understand by studying this game. The latest experiments have involved returning the gambit pawn directly by 7...e6 8. axb5 Nb6, a peculiar idea, which is, however, by no means as stupid as it looks.

8. bxc3 d5. Black's plan is to complete his development, exchange off all the pieces and then win due his queenside pawn majority. If it sounds too good to be true that is because it is. 9. g3 b7 10. e2 threatening Nh4. 10...d4 11. e3 d5 12. 0-0 dxc3 13. Be1 g6. 13...e6? 14. e2d8 exd8 15. axb5 is one of the pitfalls to be avoided. 14. e6! fxe6 15. d3. Pressurising the Black centre. 15...d6 16. d2e5 dxe5 17. Exe5 d7.

17...0-0 18. f2d5? 18...E6 looks like a better attempt to staunch the flow. 18. Exd5! Exd5 19. f2d7. An understandable decision which, alas, fails tactically. Gruesome as it looked, it was better to abandon the a-pawn immediately, although the king trapped in the middle and the attack mounting down the e-file it is hard to believe in Black's prospects for survival. 20. Ee1 e5 21. d2d3 d2d2. The killing finesse. Black cannot



White (Pert) to play
The position after Sutushkin's 17th move

retreat his king without losing the rook on e8. 22...d6 23. dxe5 Bb4 24. exf6 exf6 25. d45+. A question of taste; most people would have preferred to win the queen with the direct 25. Re7+. 25...dxd5 26. Re7+ d2d3 27. Exd5 d4 28. d2b4. And Black resigns. After 28. Rxb4 the interposition 28.Rf7+ destroys all resistance. A game of controlled aggression.

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سكزا من الأمل

Thursday,
February 18, 1999

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The Jerusalem Post

13

Today's shekel



In brief

NICE Systems '98 net up 31% to \$91m.

NICE Systems, a leading global provider of digital recording and quality management solutions, yesterday reported that 1998 revenues increased 31 percent to \$91 million, compared with \$69.3 million in 1997. Net income for the year, excluding one-time charges, reached \$13.5 million, or \$1.12 per share (diluted), compared with net income of \$12.5 million, excluding one-time charges, or \$1.36 per share (diluted) for the previous year. For the fourth quarter, revenues increased 6 percent to \$23.4 million, compared with \$22.2 million for the same quarter of 1997. Net income for the quarter reached \$2.1 million or \$0.19 per share compared with net income of \$4.6 million or \$0.39 per share (diluted) for the fourth quarter of 1997. *Bloomberg*

Barak '98 sales soar 138% to NIS 294m.

Overseas-calls provider Barak L.T.C. yesterday reported improved results for the fourth quarter of 1998. Revenues increased 34 percent to NIS 92.8 million compared with NIS 69.3 million for the same quarter last year. Net loss for the quarter improved 31 percent to NIS 53.0 million compared with NIS 76.8 million for the same period last year. Revenues for the year increased 138 percent to NIS 294.2 million compared with NIS 123.3 million last year. Net losses for 1998 include NIS 56.4 million (\$13.6 million) in net financial expenses compared with NIS 3.3 million in net financial income in 1997. *Bloomberg*

World Bank to lend Lebanon \$600m.

The World Bank has agreed to lend Lebanon another \$600 million to help it finance postwar infrastructure projects, a World Bank official said yesterday. Ghassan Rifai, the World Bank's senior adviser for the Middle East, said the new 15-year loan would carry an interest of 7 to 7.5 percent with a grace period of three to five years, reported *Al Fajh al Arabi* newspaper. *AP*

'98 unemployment up 0.9% to 8.6%

Jerusalem Post Staff

The number of work-age Israelis out of work by the end of 1998 reached 195,000, averaging 8.6% of the workforce, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

During 1997 unemployment averaged 7.7%, while at a certain point last year the unemployment rate peaked at roughly 9.5%.

The number of men who were unemployed reached 8.1% of the workforce while 9.2% of the

women were out of work.

During the fourth quarter unemployment declined to 8.3%, after registering 8.2% during the same period the previous year, and 8.5% during last year's third quarter.

In the long term, the bureau said it detected a continuation of the previous two months' decline during 1998's last two months.

In all, the civilian workforce numbered 2,272 million people per week during 1998, an increase of 2.8% per week.

Analysts stress that Israel's rapid demographic growth, particularly since the start of the post-Soviet immigration a decade ago, sets it apart from other Western economies with similar, or even higher rates of unemployment. Countries like France, Germany or Spain, where unemployment is in double-digits, have extremely low demographic growth rates and as such can cope longer with relatively low economic growth rates.

The industries which saw the

largest job growth in 1998 were health and welfare, where a total of 203,000 people worked, 10.2% more than the previous year.

The education sector employed 262,000 people last year, 6.6% more than the previous year. The business-services sector's jobs grew by 6% to 217,000 people, after growing 5.6% in each of the two previous years.

A notably sharp decline was registered in the construction industry, where 131,000 people were employed, a 10.5% plunge

in comparison with the previous year, which followed 2.5% percent decline during each of the two preceding years.

Declines were also registered in the number of people employed by the farming, low technology and domestic help industries.

The overall number of wage earners reached 1.766 million people last year, a 2.3% climb in comparison with 1997, and the average work week comprised 37.2 hours, a 1.6% decline, the CBS said.

US Embassy: Israeli piracy costs US firms \$170m.

By NICKY BLACKBURN
and AMOTZ ASA-EL

The US Embassy and local business and entertainment officials launched an attack yesterday on the government for what they described as its failure to stop piracy in the software and entertainment industries.

The embassy, which warned that trade sanctions against Israel could result if action is not taken soon, announced at a press conference in Herzliya that copyright infringement in Israel is costing US companies an annual \$170 million in lost profits.

In April last year the US placed Israel on a priority watch list, because of the high level of counterfeiting in the software, music, and video industries. Israel is the only country presently on this list.

In response, the government pledged it would carry out a series of measures to halt the spread of piracy. These include legal action, conducting raids and arrests, introducing stiffer sentencing, and launching a public awareness campaign.

Since then, however, according to embassy economic affairs counselor Deborah Schwartz, the situation has actually deteriorated rather than improved.

"The government has done nothing. It is still only talking about it. In the meantime,

things are getting worse," she said. "American companies are losing money and Israel is going to lose investment. Companies will not want to invest in Israel if what they create isn't protected."

"What counts is results. Raids should be conducted, arrests made, and stiff sentences carried out. We shouldn't just let people go with a fine and a slap on the wrist."

Though the maximum sentence for counterfeiting is NIS 1 million and three years in jail, most of those convicted get off with a fine of NIS 500 to NIS 1,000. The decision whether to impose sanctions on Israel will be made later this year. If they are introduced, it will be the first time the US has taken such a stand as a result of counterfeiting.

Industry and Trade Ministry spokesman Uri Stein said in response that Israel is committed to passing a copyright law by January 1, 2000.

Meanwhile, the Israel Police has established a special, 10-member copyright-enforcement unit and the government has barred all its agencies from using pirated software, said Stein.

Foreign Trade Administration director Zohar Peri added that Israel sees itself as a major victim of the counterfeit phenomenon, and calls on the US to encourage the

Palestinian Authority to actively fight the phenomenon.

Asher Joshepe, president of security software company Security 7, also spoke at the press conference at the Herzliya home of US Ambassador Edward Walker. "The software industry is going to become the most powerful one in Israel. It sees revenues of \$2 billion a year, and most of this is exports to the US market. It's crucial to have this market open to us. It's difficult enough for Israeli start-ups to raise money in the US with the distance and cultural differences, the last thing we need at this point is sanctions, being close to sanctions, or even being on a priority watch list."

Ami Fleischer, representative of the Business Software Alliance in Israel, agreed. "There is a possibility, a reasonable one, that in 12 months Israel might face trade sanctions. This situation will affect every one of us. We don't want this to happen," she said.

"Fighting piracy is in Israel's interest. Local industry and companies investing in Israel are suffering a great loss of revenue. Piracy is theft, but it's not being treated this way by the Israeli government. We feel it should be. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that Israel is the second Silicon Valley. If we want to continue leading the world market, we must protect our

ideas." On a more personal note, singer and composer Izhar Ashdot said: "We are being heavily affected by piracy. Record sales have gone down dramatically. It only used to affect major artists; now it affects everyone in the trade. Piracy is hurting all of us. I want the government to take care of us, otherwise we'll be left with nothing. No brains, no culture, only problems."

Much of the counterfeiting, particularly in the entertainment business, is carried out in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Schwartz said: "There are a number of plants manufacturing counterfeit CDs in the PA and working with Israeli distributors. It is most critical to work together to resolve this problem."

Earlier this week, a report issued in Washington by the International Intellectual Property Alliance companies said that US producers of computer software, CDs, videos, and books, such as Time Warner Inc. and Microsoft Corp., lost a combined \$12.4 billion in 1998 because of the illegal copying of their goods.

The greatest piracy losses worldwide result from governments failing to ensure that their own agencies use only legal software, the report said. It was submitted to US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky.

The other side of Israeli textiles

When times got tough for the textile sector, clothing manufacturer Bagir Co. Ltd. began producing Travel Flex suits - a line of no-wrinkle, Lycra-wool blend suits, perfect for the hi-tech Israeli traveler, according to general manager Moshe Langlieb, a soft-spoken South American whose own well-cut pinstriped suit seems custom-made.

Now, while the industry which once epitomized Israeli low-tech lays off thousands of local workers and exports entire production lines, Bagir is at the forefront of a newly lean and sophisticated clothing industry.

Set in the somewhat sleepy development town of Kiryat Gat, north of Beersheba, Bagir was established in 1961 as a subsidiary of Polgar; its name is Hebrew abbreviation of *Bigdei Yeroham*, ("Yeroham clothing"), after the town where the factory was originally located.

In the massive factory workrooms, 1,500 workers put together 1,700 suit jackets and 4,000 pairs of pants a day. The fabrics come from next-door neighbor Polgar, whose giant looms weave wools

into worsted and blue and gray threads into pinstripes.

At Bagir, designers lay out suit sleeves and pant legs with a German design software program, purchased during the period when the company worked solely through strategic ties with several German companies.

"As inflation went up, salary costs rose and we became less competitive as a nation," said Langlieb. "We needed new, competitive elements, so we went into fashion."

In 1998, Bagir produced 1.5 million pairs of pants and 800,000 jackets, generating \$108 million in sales, most of it in exports. That's a significant portion of the overall textile industry, which had exports of \$1.37 billion in 1998, according to the textile division of the Manufacturer's Association.

Israeli textile companies have been emphasizing the technology side of their industry for some time, and Bagir is no exception. The company was one of the pioneers in the use of Lycra fabrics and in producing suits as separates, whose pieces can be mixed and matched with each other, which has proved a

BEEN THERE

boon to the men's fashion industry. Bagir counts Brooks Brothers, Marks & Spencer, Selfridges, and others among its 300 customers.

Bagir began selling its Lycra-wool blend suits to the Brooks Brothers factory stores three years ago and the "product is great," said senior buyer Art Hunter in New York.

The suits, sold at \$299.90 at Brooks Brothers 60 factory stores, and for NIS 1,290 in Polgar stores, are "the best suit you can buy for the money," said Hunter.

Bagir has the modern approach to the fashion business, including a thorough understanding of short-lead time, he added.

"They work hard as our partner, even though they're seven hours ahead and 6,000 miles away," said Hunter.

At present, Bagir is negotiating to supply certain product lines to the European division of the

Wisconsin-based Land's End clothing catalog, said Langlieb.

Like several other Israeli textile companies, Bagir is also penetrating the Egyptian and Jordanian employment markets. It is working with Arafat Holdings in Egypt, where an existing factory will produce 400 jackets and 1,200 pants a day for Marks & Spencer as well as a private-label line.

According to Langlieb, Bagir is investing about \$150m. in its Middle East expansion program, including its employee training program for a future factory in the Irbid industrial park at the Jordanian border. There are 25 Jordanian employees being trained in a six-month program in Kiryat Gat.

The company's penetration into Jordan and Egypt should expand Bagir's production by about 50%, estimated Langlieb.

"We saw an opening to a giant market following the peace process and we wanted to be part of that global unification," he said.

The company, however, has no plans for a factory at the Karmi industrial park outside Gaza City, where linen manufacturer Kitan is

opening a plant with a Palestinian partner.

Langlieb, a former South American, is an appropriate executive for this subsidiary of Polgar, one of Israel's oldest manufacturing concerns.

The clothing manufacturer was established by Yisrael Pollack, who was born to one of Poland's leading textile families and moved to Chile before World War II to continue the family business.

By the late 1950s, Pollack reached Israel and established a thread factory in Kiryat Gat - hence the name, Polgar.

Once a family-owned concern, Polgar is now controlled by Clal Industries and Investments while Polgar Textiles and Bagir are independent subsidiaries. As part of the strategic plan, Polgar sold its 38 retail stores to Gulf Kitan for NIS 220m. earlier this year.

Japan, Israel launch Osaka-TA flight route

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Japan and Israel on Tuesday signed an aviation agreement allowing for flights between Tel Aviv and Osaka, El Al announced yesterday.

El Al said that it was conducting market research to indicate whether such a route is indeed worthwhile. Originally, El Al had tried to gain landing rights at Narita Airport, which serves Tokyo, even though it is 70 kilometers from the capital, but that airport has had no free slots for several years.

When Kansai Airport was opened, near Osaka, the company also tried to obtain landing rights there, unsuccessfully until now. Kansai is a two-hour flight or four-hour train journey from Tokyo.

One of the arguments against allowing an Israeli carrier to have landing rights there was that because the airport is on an artificial island, it would be particularly susceptible to terror attacks.

According to El Al, a route between Kansai and Ben-Gurion would be particularly suitable for the new fleet of medium-sized, long-range planes that El Al intends to acquire. El Al is also considering running cargo flights to Japan. However, cargo flights would only be introduced if the Japanese authorities extended the necessary permits for Israeli agricultural produce to be exported to Japan.

El Al is about to inaugurate a cargo route to Hong Kong, with a stopover in Tashkent. The flights are to begin on March 3.

New papers' war looms as free tabloids hit London

By JAMES ASHTON

LONDON (Reuters) - The last time war broke out on London's newspaper stands, the *Evening Standard* won a bloody winner-take-all fight to emerge as top dog. It has barely been challenged since.

Now a new battle for readers and advertisers' cash is set to hit the capital with the launch of two free daily tabloids which could be just as bruising as the 1987 contest.

Media group Daily Mail & General Trust Plc (DMGT) plans to give away 350,000 copies of *Metro* to the million morning commuters on London's underground rail network from March 9.

The move is targeted at News International, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which says it intends to launch a free evening paper aimed at the Daily Mail group's *Evening Standard*, with its 430,000 circulation and a stranglehold on lucrative classified ad revenue.

National paid-for titles are worried that the circulation battle will eat into London sales and revenue as Britain's cut-throat newspaper industry struggles to reverse sagging circulation.

Daily national newspaper sales in Britain fell to around 13.2 million in December 1998 compared to almost 14 million in the first half of 1996, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

But Nic Morrison, *Metro*'s editorial consultant, said the new giveaway was aimed at the estimated 50 percent of tube travelers who read nothing on the morning ride to work.

"One couldn't say who we might take readers from, but the

Metro will work alongside the *Daily Mail* and the *Evening Standard*. We hope people will keep hold of *Metro* all day."

A News International spokeswoman refused to comment on its plans for an evening competitor. But an article in the News Corp.-owned *Times* newspaper in December said that "the new paper...is expected to be launched early next year."

"News International has, it is believed, been planning the launch of a free evening newspaper for London for some time. It will be aimed at the classified advertising base of the *Evening Standard*."

Britain's weekly *Press Gazette* magazine said some 15 journalists were working on dummy versions which might revive the *Today* name which News International closed as a national title in 1995.

The battle for London's newspaper stands is reminiscent of the launch of media mogul Robert Maxwell's *Daily News* 12 years ago.

DMGT resurrected its *London Evening News* title to run alongside the *Standard*, killing off the *Daily News* eight months after a costly launch.

Another upstart, *Tonight*, folded in 1994 after a brief challenge to the *Evening Standard*.

DMGT has struck a deal with London Transport to distribute the

Metro at 261 underground stations across the capital, the first time a newspaper has been given away inside its stations.

A London Transport spokesman would not reveal the financial details of the arrangement, but said it was unlikely LT would set up a similar arrangement with another publisher.

"I couldn't really see that at the present time. We want to see how this one goes first," he said.

The growth of free advertising newspapers and local freebies in London in recent years has failed to diminish the attraction of the *Evening Standard* for people wanting to rent apartments, buy cars and post job vacancies.

Its total ad revenue in 1998 was £165.6 million (\$270.6 million), up 12% on 1997, according to figures from market research specialist AC Nielsen.

DMGT reported pre-tax profits of £197.4 million pounds for the year to September 1998. Advertising revenue for its three main titles, the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and the *Standard* rose over 10 percent on the previous year.

Steve Goodman, press director at media agency MediaCom TMB, a unit of Grey Advertising Inc. said advertisers would be willing to try out both new titles.

"Advertisers are willing to dip

their toe in the water, at least for the first few issues, but they have no guarantees of circulation or an understanding of how people will read it. Will they pick it up and bin it in a matter of minutes because it's free?" he said.

Goodman said that he expected *Metro* to poach readers from both the *Daily Mail* and *Evening Standard*, especially on a Thursday, when many people buy the latter for its Hot Tickets entertainment listings supplement. Listings will be provided free in *Metro*, along with news and sports coverage.

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Israel Airports Authority

Ben Gurion 2000 Project

Public Tender No. C4060065 Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Diesel Generators

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests Proposals from qualified Offerors meeting the below listed Pre-Conditions for the Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Diesel Generators for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project.

Preliminary Mandatory Requirements: This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFP is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

- Offeror's minimum annual revenue in each of the last three (3) years was not less than the equivalent of Three Million U.S. Dollars (\$ 3 million).
- Offeror shall meet the staffing and personnel experience requirements specified in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- The Offeror shall have at least five (5) years experience of supplying installing and maintaining Generators of at least 1.6 MW/6.3 KV with Air Blast Starters during which he has installed at least two (2) units of the same equipment each with a capacity of at least 1.6 MW/6.3 KV.
- Offeror shall attach to its Proposal a certificate issued by the Manufacturer of the Equipment attesting to the Offeror being the Manufacturer's Authorized Agents for that Manufacturer's Equipment in Israel.
- Offeror shall meet the registration requirements for a legal entity stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israeli Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFP, Exhibit A.
- Offeror shall provide an unconditional Bank Guarantee in the amount of One Million, Two Hundred Thousand New Israeli Shekels (NIS1,200,000), valid for a minimum of ninety (90) days from the Proposal Submission Date, as specified in the RFP, Exhibit E.
- Joint Ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFP, Part B, Section 2 and Exhibit A.
- Offeror, if a foreign entity, shall additionally provide a Commercial Cooperation Undertaking Agreement, as a condition precedent to the execution of a Supply and Installation Agreement with the IAA.

Additional Preliminary Requirements: Participation in the Tender Process is subject to the Offeror's satisfying all Preliminary Requirements as detailed in the Mandatory Tender Regulations (1993), Clause 6 (a) (1), (2) and (3).

Proposal Documents: Tender Documents may be purchased until the Proposal Submission Date for the non-refundable amount of Thirteen Thousand New Israeli Shekels (13,000 NIS), including VAT. Tender Documents are available from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office located at Ben Gurion International Airport starting 18 February 1999 between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Zvi Peretz Cohen, at telephone number: 972-3-977-4456 (Fax number 972-3-971-2956) a minimum of forty eight (48) hours in advance to arrange Site access. Interested parties may preview the Tender Documents prior to their purchase.

All qualifying Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before 16 March 1999 to the appropriate tender box located in the Archive of the Airports Authority, Main Office, 2nd Floor, Room No. 113, Ben Gurion International Airport, Israel.

A Pre-Proposal conference will be held at the Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices on 25 February 1999 at 13:00 to clarify provisions in the RFP documents, to summarize and present the Project and to respond to written questions posed by Offerors. Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend, but participation is not mandatory. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the RFP. The IAA is not bound to accept the lowest Proposal or any Proposal whatsoever.

224710.02.00

Dow drops 1% • Nasdaq plunges 2.8% • TASE mixed

SHARES

WALL STREET

Stocks slumped yesterday as disappointing results from market leader Dell Computer Corp. fuelled concern that the long-running bull market in technology stocks might be over.

Based on early, unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended down 101.56 points, or 1 percent, at 9,195.47.

In the broader market, declining issues swamped advances by a 2-to-1 margin on active volume of 730 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index plunged 64.89 points, or 2.8 percent, to 2,348.98. The Nasdaq index, which has been on a roller-coaster ride since it peaked at 2,510.09 on February 11, is now down 10.4 percent from its high.

Dell Computer, the world's biggest direct seller of personal computers, reported late on Tuesday earnings that were in line with Wall Street forecasts. But Dell said revenue growth was up 38 percent, well below the growth of about 56 percent in the previous eight quarters.

Dell, which ended with a loss of 7-3/16 at 81-9/16 on huge volume of more than 112 million trades, had been among the best-performing stocks on Wall Street in the last 12 months. A year ago, Dell was at \$27.81 and hit a record of \$110 early this month.

TEL AVIV

Israeli stocks declined yesterday, led by Super-Sol Ltd., as the market's elation following Monday's

0.5% CPI apparently spent itself.

The Maof Index of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's 25 largest companies fell 0.47 percent to 305.76, after rising 1.47 percent on Tuesday. Thirteen stocks rose and five stocks fell, while seven were unchanged.

Super-Sol Ltd. (SUSL IT) fell 0.70 percent to NIS 9.89.

Israel's largest supermarket chain has been hurt by higher inflation over the last six months. The Central Bureau of Statistics reported that spending on food, drink and tobacco fell 2 percent in the second half of 1998, compared with the first half.

Bezeq Ltd. (BEZQ IT) fell 0.38 percent to NIS 13.15. Bezeq holds a stake in DBS Satellite Services Ltd., which was granted the country's first license for providing direct-to-home satellite broadcasting services last month. Jerusalem Capital Studios, a company controlled by cosmetics heir Ronald Lauder, reportedly intends to purchase 8 percent of DBS Satellite.

Nice Systems Ltd. (NICE IT) rose 0.62 percent to NIS 97.40. The market of call center monitoring equipment said fourth-quarter net earnings per share were 19 cents, higher than an average of 17 cents, according to a IBES survey of six analysts.

EUROPE

U.K. stocks turned mixed yesterday, rebounding from earlier losses, as British Telecommunications Plc rose along with its shares in the U.S.

BT, the U.K.'s biggest telephone company, surged 23p to 1,099.5, a 2.14 percent gain, as its American depositary receipts gained 4 5/16 to 179 1/8. Among other phone companies, Cable & Wireless

Communications Plc gained 31p, or 3.7 percent, to \$39.

The earlier losses came as BP Amoco Plc, the world's third-largest publicly traded oil company, led oil companies lower after it reported a 37 percent drop in fourth-quarter profit. BP dropped as much as 23 points, then pared its losses to trade down 9.5p, or 1.1 percent, at 847. Shell Transport & Trading Co. dropped 9.25p, or 2.8 percent, to 318.25.

BP Amoco, created last year from British Petroleum Co.'s \$62 billion purchase of Amoco Corp., said profit before one-time items fell to \$875 million from \$1.38 billion the previous year.

The decline came as oil prices plunged to a 12-year low. The results were in line with forecasts between \$750 million and \$890 million.

The broader FTSE 250 index lost 34.4 points to 5,176.5, while the FTSE 100, which includes the both the FTSE 100 and the FTSE 250, shed 3.2 points to 2,889.7.

ASIA

Japanese stocks were mixed yesterday.

Sony Corp. and other exporters rose on expectation that the yen's depreciation will boost overseas profits. Computer-related shares fell amid concern about weak demand for TDK Corp., a maker of hard disk-drive parts, lowered full-year forecast.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 average fell 73.97, or 0.5 percent, to 14,158.67.

Sony, Fuji Photo Film Co., and other companies dependent on dollar-denominated profits gained after the US currency jumped 2.5 percent overnight to 118.57 yen, its biggest

TRADING FLOORS

Maof 305.76 ▼ 0.47%
Dow Jones 9195.47 ▼ 1%
FTSE 6078.40 ▼ 0.4%
Nikkei 14158.67 ▼ 0.5%

gain in five weeks. The dollar got a boost from Japan's financial authorities who said the government will sell less long-term debt in an effort to bring down interest rates.

In other markets, investor expectations of robust corporate earnings sent Australia's All Ordinaries index up 0.8 percent and New Zealand's Top 40 index up 1.5 percent. Thailand's SET index fell 3.2 percent on concern loan defaults will hurt bank earnings. Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Korea are closed for the Lunar New Year.

The dollar fell yesterday against the euro for the first day in three after the European Central Bank said interest rates are already low enough to stimulate growth, squelching speculation it might cut lending rates.

In its monthly report, the ECB reiterated recent comments from policy-makers saying the current 3

CURRENCIES

The dollar fell yesterday against the euro for the first day in three after the European Central Bank said interest rates are already low enough to stimulate growth, squelching speculation it might cut lending rates.

In its monthly report, the ECB reiterated recent comments from policy-makers saying the current 3

percent benchmark rate is favorable for sustaining growth and employment in the 11 euro nations.

"It would be a surprise to the market" if the ECB cuts rates at its meeting tomorrow, said Harriet Richmond, London currency chief for J.P. Morgan Investment Management, which oversees \$316 billion globally. "We might see more short-term strength," taking the euro as high as \$1.1450, from \$1.1255 now.

The dollar weakened from \$1.1209 late yesterday in New York, after rising almost 1 percent the past two days on expectations for lower European rates.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar rose to a 10-week high, extending yesterday's 2.5 percent gain, as traders targeted 120 yen as a good level to help exporters and bring an end to Japan's recession. The dollar rose as high as 119.10 yen, its strongest since December 9, from 118.57.

COMMODITIES

METALS

Gold and silver firmed gently in late European trading yesterday, recovering from earlier softness left over from Tuesday's rapid falls, dealers said.

Wary early trade by European dealers gave way as New York's arrival heralded an immediate bounce in silver, which dragged gold off its lows.

Dollar strength versus the yen and key gold producer currencies did little to help gold sentiment, with no US demand likely to suffer on rising local prices.

London gold fixed at \$285.75 a troy ounce in the afternoon, 40

cents up on the morning's \$285.35.

"We are seeing a bit of a recovery after yesterday's sharp sell off. I think silver has the potential to go higher again," said one London dealer.

Spot silver, which jumped 10 cents as the US opened, was last at \$5.45/\$5.48, two cents below New York's Tuesday close.

ENERGY

Crude oil was little changed close to a seven-week low on anticipation that an industry report will show few signs of strengthening demand in the US, the world's top energy user.

Though the American Petroleum Institute could show a rise in US inventories in a report today, it would follow a plunge last week and could just be the API's way of bringing itself into line with government estimates, traders said. Crude is down 27 percent from a year ago amid high supplies and weak demand from Asia.

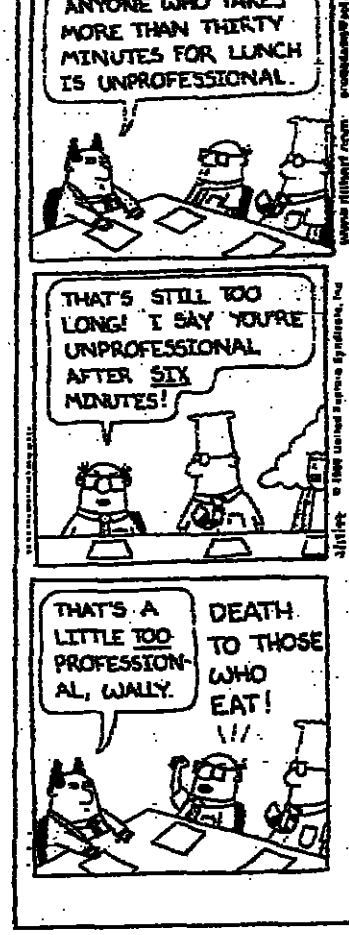
"It's a good thing the Beverly Hills aren't on anymore," said John Kilduff, senior vice president of energy risk management at Fimat USA Inc. in New York. "They'd have to change the words in the song from 'black gold' to 'black mud.'" March crude oil fell as much as 11 cents, or 1 percent, to \$11.26 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest price since December 28, before rebounding to trade unchanged at \$11.37.

Mild winter weather in the US has left demand 15 percent below normal for the US Northeast, the nation's biggest heating oil market, according to Weather Derivatives of Belton, Missouri.

March heating oil fell as much as

DILBERT

By Scott Adams



0.32 cent, or 1.1 percent, to 29.20 cents a gallon, matching yesterday's record low for the 21-year-old contract. March gasoline fell as much as 0.37 cent, or 1.1 percent, to 32.55 cents a gallon.

(Agencies)

Muddling through the global interest-rate maze

NEW YORK - When Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung pioneered the theory of the collective unconscious, it was the shared memories and impulses of individuals that he had in mind.

Financial markets seem to have a collective unconscious, too, behaving as if they know something that is not yet knowable, reacting before the hundreds of thousands of individuals who comprise the market have a conscious knowledge of what's going on.

In recent weeks, long-term interest rates have been rising around the globe, in countries that are in glaringly different phases of the business cycle: in Japan, where economic growth is elusive; in the US, where economic growth just won't quit; and in Europe, where economic growth, never that strong to begin with, is sputtering.

What gives? Are the markets sniffing out a turn in the global cycle and an increase in the demand for credit, even as much of Asia remains mired in recession? There is a strong positive correlation among long-term interest rates. When rates rise in

one country, they tend to rise in the others as countries compete to attract capital.

The US, of course, is the biggest consumer of capital, and it's the biggest because it runs the biggest current account deficit. Ever since the Asian crisis erupted in mid-1997, capital has been flooding into the US, attracted by the safety of Treasury securities. Strong economic growth, as long as it is accompanied by absent inflation, was no threat to interest rates moving lower.

Outwardly, not much has changed. Although the emerging markets have stabilized for the moment, yet the Treasury market is behaving as if it senses some as-yet-undetermined negative loom. Despite a rally in the Japanese and European bond markets on Tuesday, US Treasuries struggled for most of the day, with the 30-year bond finding some sponsorship towards the close of futures trading.

Is it a coincidence that the 30-year bond had its worst day in four months on the same day that President Bill Clinton was acquitted on both counts of impeach-

ment? Now that the year-long ordeal is over, the president can, in his own words, "get back to the people's business." Congress, meanwhile, can "pass some legislation."

The idea of a more activist government is a disconcerting notion. What the Washington establishment and the press corps that documents its every move don't understand is that the gridlock created by the Monica Lewinsky scandal and the impeachment and trial of President Clinton has been great for the US economy.

US gross domestic product rose at close to a 4 percent rate for the third year in a row in 1998. The unemployment rate fell to a 29-year low. Consumer spending advanced at the fastest pace since 1984. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index soared 27 percent. Domestic merger and acquisition activity totaled \$1.6 trillion, or 11 percent of total stock market capitalization.

The hubris in Washington is thinking that its preoccupation with the intern and the president in any way interfered with the efficient allocation of capital or the

MARKETWATCH

By CAROLINE BAUM

production and distribution of goods and services. Or that devoting less-than-100-percent attention to the people's business and the failure to pass legislation did anything but allow the economy to thrive and prosper.

The danger now is that a weakened Republican party and an emboldened president will crank up the Democratic legislative agenda, an agenda that is not likely to include tax cuts given the Republican's disarray.

President Clinton's State of the Union address, the opening salvo for the administration's budget for fiscal 2000, contained goodies for every special interest group.

"If you've got a problem - an ache, a sick kid, a sick dog, a dragging muffer on your car, low self-esteem, not enough time to pick up your kids after school and get them to a soccer match - Bill Clinton undoubtedly has a govern-

ment program for you," says Stephen Moore, director of fiscal policy studies at the Cato Institute. "There is something in this budget for everyone: at least \$100 billion in new spending over the next five years."

Now that Clinton has been cleared of all charges - perjury and obstruction of justice - he can devote his full attention to the people's business. As he defines it, the people's business is the government's business.

Last Friday was an important day for the markets for another reason. On Friday the US Commerce Department announced that it will impose duties on Japan and Brazil for selling hot-rolled steel in the US below the market price.

The Commerce Department issued its preliminary ruling in response to an anti-dumping petition filed last September by the US steel industry. Because the duties are retroactive to November, steel imports from Japan, Brazil and Russia have already plunged, the threat being tantamount to the penalty. That seems to have encouraged domestic steel pro-

ducers to proceed with other anti-dumping petitions for cold-rolled steel and plate steel.

The steel industry's rallying cry, "stand up for steel," seems horribly misplaced since there are more US consumers of steel - companies like Caterpillar Inc., for example - that will suffer as a result of higher steel prices than there are domestic steel-producing jobs that will be lost to cheaper imports.

The US has other trade complaints against the European Union pending with the World Trade Organization. Anything that raises prices by restricting free trade is a negative. It's a negative for the economy because industry is denied access to the cheapest inputs and becomes less efficient. It's a negative for interest rates because of the potential inflationary implications.

There's a third subliminal negative percolating through the fixed-income market, even if no one is talking about it. It concerns the waning prospects for the reappointment of Alan Greenspan as Fed chairman when his term ends in June 2000, according to Larry

Kudlow, chief economist at American Skandia.

In a Bloomberg column two weeks ago, Kudlow opined that Greenspan's opposition to President Clinton's proposal to have the government invest a portion of the social security trust fund in stocks "significantly jeopardizes Greenspan's reappointment." Kudlow may be onto something.

Who knew when Paul Volcker resigned in 1987 that Alan Greenspan would continue the work of his predecessor and achieve virtual price stability? Greenspan is such a fixture in the financial markets, having earned his stripes as an inflation fighter and earned respect by responding quickly to both the 1987 stock market crash and 1998 financial market panic with increased liquidity, that his loss would create added uncertainty.

That alone could account for the nervousness in financial markets. When you throw in the threat of trade protectionism and a government that wants to be all things to all people, is it any wonder the market is misbehaving? (Bloomberg)

FINANCIAL MARKETS

TEL AVIV 100

LAST	CHANGE
Alcatel	1,100.00
Alcatel 1	1,100.00
Alcatel 2	1,100.00
Alcatel 3	1,100.00
Alcatel 4	1,100.00
Alcatel 5	1,100.00
Alcatel 6	1,100.00
Alcatel 7	1,100.00
Alcatel 8	1,100.00
Alcatel 9	1,100.00
Alcatel 10	1,100.00
Alcatel 11	1,100.00
Alcatel 12	1,100.00
Alcatel 13	1,100.00
Alcatel 14	1,100.00
Alcatel 15	1,100.00
Alcatel 16	1,100.00
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Alcatel 27	1,100.00
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Alcatel 31	1,100.00
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Alcatel 38	1,100.00
Alcatel 39	1,100.00
Alcatel 40	1,100.00
Alcatel 41	1,100.00
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Alcatel 80	1,100.00
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Alcatel 82	1,100.00
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Alcatel 87	1,100.00
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Alcatel 91	1,100.00
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Alcatel 93	1,100.00
Alcatel 94	1,100.00
Alcatel 95	1,100.00
Alcatel 96	1,100.00
Alcatel 97	1,100.00
Alcatel 98	1,100.00
Alcatel 99	1,100.00
Alcatel 100	1,100.00

REITZEL

LAST	CHANGE
Alcatel	1,100.00
Alcatel 1	1,100.00
Alcatel 2	1,100.00
Alcatel 3	1,100.00
Alcatel 4	1,100.00
Alcatel 5	1,100.00
Alcatel 6	1,100.00
Alcatel 7	1,100.00
Alcatel 8	1,100.00
Alcatel 9	1,100.00
Alcatel 10	1,100.00
Alcatel 11	1,100.00
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Alcatel 15	1,100.00
Alcatel 16	1,100.00
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Alcatel 39	1,100.00
Alcatel 40	1,100.00
Alcatel 41	1,100.00
Alcatel 42	1,100.00
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Alcatel 55	1,100.00
Alcatel 56	1,100.00
Alcatel 57	1,100.00
Alcatel 58	1,100.00
Alcatel 59	1,100.00
Alcatel 60	1,100.00

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Pataah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for):	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.820
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.080	0.180	0.550
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—


(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.2.99)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	4.3537	4.4240	—	—	4.3819
U.S. dollar	4.0245	4.0895	3.96	4.14	4.0570
EU euro	4.5217	4.5947	—	—	4.5676
German mark	2.3120	2.3493	2.28	2.38	2.3354
Pound sterling	6.5892	6.6752	6.46	6.78	6.8389
French franc	0.6893	0.7005	0.68	0.71	0.6983
Japanese yen (100)	3.3913	3.4480	3.34	3.49	3.4194
Dutch florin	2.0519	2.0850	2.03	2.11	2.0727
Swiss franc	2.8302	2.8769	2.79	2.91	2.8601
Swedish krona	0.5305	0.5198	0.50	0.52	0.5132
Norwegian krona	0.6392	0.6296	0.61	0.64	0.6255
Danish krona	0.7605	0.7728	0.75	0.78	0.7682
Canadian dollar	2.6879	2.7313	2.65	2.76	2.7084
Australian dollar	2.5476	2.5867	2.51	2.62	2.5711
S. African rand	0.6565	0.6671	0.59	0.67	0.6618
Belgian franc (10)	1.1210	1.1391	1.11	1.15	1.1323
Austrian schilling (10)	3.2861	3.3392	3.24	3.38	3.3194
Italian lire (1000)	2.3353	2.3730	2.30	2.40	2.3580
Jordanian dinar	5.6804	5.7517	5.42	5.91	5.7060
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.15	1.23	1.1904
Irish punt	5.7415	5.8342	5.66	5.92	5.7984
Spanish peseta (100)	2.7177	2.7616	2.68	2.80	2.7482

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
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Stocks, Bonds
and Mutual Funds*
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	129.625	-3.75
Low Freight	17.0825	+0.125

LONDON		
at Dornoch	4.63	-
at Zurich	262.5	+0.5
India	22.5	-2
1988	108.5	+13
1989	749	-3
1990	820	+4
1991 Average	62.25	+14.5
1992	984.5	-5
1993	35	+15.5
1994	357	-10
1995	1183	-35
1996	11	+4.5
1997	1730	-7
1998	212	-1
1999	542.5	+5
2000	915	+1
2001	915.5	+25
2002	1324	-3
2003	422.25	+14.5
2004	367.5	-5
2005	215	-3
2006	333	+100
2007	367	+2.5
2008	271.5	-8

PARIS		
at Dornoch	522.5	+4.5
at Zurich	151	-1.5
at Dornoch	93.35	-2.35
1988	111	-1
1989	412.5	+0.5
1990	375	-17
1991	353.5	-1
1992	54	-3.25
1993	127.5	-1.5
1994	225	-1.5

FRANKFURT		
at Dornoch	30.4	-0.2
at Zurich	18.55	-0.6
1988	17.25	+0.4
1989	53.5	-12.75

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES		
	Last	Change
Australia (1)	2.3719	0
Belgium (1)	4.057	0
Canada (1)	0.6673	0
France (1)	2.2554	0
Germany (1)	0.6569	0
Italy (1)	3.4934	0
Japan (1)	2.2581	0
Spain (1)	2.7084	0
Switzerland (1)	2.3809	0
United Kingdom (1)	5.706	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES		
	Last	Change
Australia	5195.47	+101.55
Canada	5192.16	+31.4
Germany	2914.1	+3.2
Japan	777.7	-1.7
Italy	722.88	-6.65
Spain	545.36	-1.05
UK	362.55	-0.25
US	612.85	-7.95
100 Ind.	1254.05	-17.62
1000 Ind.	273.97	-7.23

OTHER MARKET INDEXES		
	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3070.4	-30.2
Nikkei	14158.6	-74
Shanghai all-share index		
Shanghai Hong Kong Share Index	279.7	-7.33
Paris CAC 40	3965.49	-65.80
DAX	4904.88	+25.13
EURO	470.9	-6.5
Spanish Market Index	7045.9	+30.7
Sydney	2882.2	+22.8
Tel Aviv	1462.34	+7.25

DOLLAR CROSS RATES (US)		
	Last	Change
Canada	1.4397	+0.009
Denmark (DME)	1.354	+0.001
European (DME)	1.7281	-0.007
Japanese (DME)	0.7533	+0.0016
S-Franc (DME)	1.798	-0.004
Swiss (DME)	0.7048	+0.003
Yen (DME)	1.1638	+0.27
Costa Rica (DME)	0.00468	-0.0005
Canada	1.468	-0.0025
Denmark (DME)	0.8396	-0.0002
European (DME)	0.8335	-0.001
Japanese (DME)	0.6945	-0.0018
S-Franc (DME)	1.551	-0.0027
Swiss (DME)	1.7223	-0.001
Yen (DME)	1.381	-0.0073
Australia (DME)	12.2021	+0.001
France (DME)	6.135	-0.02
EURO (DME)	1.1947	+0.0005

US COMMODITIES		
	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (CSC2)	1287	+1.8
Coffee (Mar) (CSC2)	102.55	+0.17
Wheat (Mar) (CSC2)	254.75	+2.5
Soybean (Mar) (CSC2)	49.75	+0.01
Orange Juice (Mar) (CSC2)	34.25	0
Onion (Mar) (CSC2)	11.33	+0.15
Bond	12542	+12.8
S and P	1229.5	+12.8

LONDON COMMODITIES		
	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (CSC2)	1918	+0.1
Coffee (Mar) (CSC2)	1742	+1.1
Sugar (Mar) (CSC2)	294.7	0
Brent crude oil (Mar) (CSC2)		-

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)		
	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.44	+0

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES		
	Last	Change

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Thursday, February 13
EMERGENCY
PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Eklat, Strous A,
3 Argovot, 670-6680; Baisam,
Sabit u-Din, 627-2315; Shoshet,
Shoshet Road, 561-0108; Der Adisha,
Tel Aviv City, 629-2038.
Tel Aviv: Macabbi, 2 Baitov, 529-
5935; Jabotinsky, 125 Ein Givoli, 546-
2040.
Tel-Aviv-Near Coast: Hasharon, 55
Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon,
740-6761.
Netanya: Hadassa, 24 Herzl, 882-
2243.

Halfa: Superpharm Low Hamitzitz, 53
Hahabatzitz, 941-6437; Hanessl, 33
Hanessl, 850-9112
Kryet, Hanessl, Nitzan, Mordechai
Nannir, Nitzan Sq., Kryet Yam, 975-
1680.
Herziya: New Pharm, Beit Merkizim,
6 Masalit (cnn. Sokerit Hagait),
Herziya Pnash, 954-6903. Open 9
a.m. to 10 p.m.
Tel Aviv: Nannir, New Pharm, Low
Hamitzitz Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to
10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Bldg. Haim (Internal,
ENT); Shoshana Zelik (surgery, ortho-
dents); Shostriker; Hadassah (Eyn
Karem (pediatrics, ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center

**Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics);
Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.**

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Bat Yam 0521283	Netanya 0512233
Beth Shimon 0574757	Netanya 0504444
Bnei Brak 0523193	Petah Tikva 0511111
Dan Region 0595333	Ramat Gan 0541885
Haifa 0512223	Ramat Hashikma 0542333
Jerusalem 0523333	Sailed 0502333
Karmiel 0545444	Tel Aviv 0549711
	Tiberias 0595444

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 hours a day, for information in case of
 poisoning.

First Aid – Emotional First Aid – 1201,
 1st Avenue, Jerusalem 02-581-0303 (Arabic)
 06-563-0301; Tel Aviv 03-549-1111 (chi-
 ldren/youth 546-0735; Rishon LeZion
 03-556-0861/2; Haifa 04-867-2222
 (Arabic: 887-2226); Beersheva 07-
 494-4393; Netanya 09-662-5110).

Jerusalem 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-
 04-988-8770; Kfar Saba 07-781-4555;
 Haifa 06-534-6789; Nazareth
 06-645-4222).
 Crisis Center for Religious Women
 02-635-0744/5, 24-hour service, confi-
 dentiality guaranteed.
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 130, 08-855-5508.
 Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel
 Aviv 03-4819, 544-9191 (man),
 Jerusalem 02-655-5538, Haifa 053-0533,
 Beer Sheva 053-153-153.
 Madrasah Medical Organization -
 Israel Cancer Association support ser-
 vice, 02-624-7578.
 Night arrivals - for information in
 English 03-972-3544.

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Flyers return to winning ways with 4-1 win over Coyotes

PHOENIX (AP) — John LeClair scored Philadelphia's first two goals and John Vanbiesbrouck had 32 saves as the Flyers defeated the Phoenix Coyotes 4-1.

LeClair, who increased his NHL lead over teammate Eric Lindros to five goals with his 36th and 37th, also had two assists Tuesday night as the Flyers won for the first time in five games (1-2-2).

Young Russian defenseman Dmitri Tertyshny got his first NHL goal in his 43rd game, and Eric Desjardins also scored for the Flyers. Keith Jones had three assists.

Vanbiesbrouck, coasting with a 4-0 lead, gave up a goal to Phoenix's Trevor Hansen 8:43 into the third period. It cost him his seventh shutout, which would have moved him out of a tie with Nikolai Khabibulin for second in the NHL.

PHILADELPHIA 1-2-4
1st Period: 1-0-0
2nd Period: 1-1-1
3rd Period: 2-0-3
Total: 4-1-4

PHOENIX 0-1-1
1st Period: 0-1-0
2nd Period: 0-0-0
3rd Period: 0-0-1
Total: 0-1-1

Scoring: LeClair 18:12, 25:12, 36:12, 37:12; Tertyshny 38:12; Desjardins 39:12; Jones 39:12; Hansen 38:43.

Penalties: LeClair 18:12, 25:12, 36:12, 37:12; Hansen 38:43.

Goalie: Vanbiesbrouck (32 saves), Khabibulin (23-11-6).

Pacemen spark Pakistan fight-back

CALCUTTA (Reuters) — Pakistani pace bowlers ripped through the Indian middle order, restricting them to 223 all out after the hosts looked set for a formidable lead yesterday, the second day of the first match of a three nation Asian Test championship.

Shoaib Akhtar, who replaced Waqar Younis, ended with 4-71 while Wasim Akram weighed in with 3-65, though the pair between them conceded 28 no-balls.

At close of play Pakistan were 26-1, still 12 runs behind India. Pakistan scored 185 in their first innings.

In the Indian innings left-handed opener Sadagopan Ramesh (79) helped the home side take a lead of 38 despite a Pakistani fightback where they upped the pace and claimed the last eight wickets for 76.

India, who began the day on 26-1, lost only the wicket of night-watchman Anil Kumble in the first session and by mid-afternoon were strongly placed at 147 for two.

But Akhtar uprooted Rahul Dravid's leg-stump with a yorker and then meted out similar treatment to Sachin Tendulkar with his next delivery, knocking back his middle stump. Dravid made a patient 24.

Pakistan captain Akram struck another blow three overs later when he trapped Ramesh leg before. Ramesh, who scored his third successive test half-century, batted for three and half hours.

Akram also claimed the wicket of Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin (23) caught by Saglaia Mushtaq at cover, and Javagal Srinath, caught behind for three.

Mushtaq took one wicket when Saurav Ganguly gloved the ball to Akram at second slip.

In all, the Pakistani bowlers conceded 41 extras, including 32 no-balls. When Pakistan began their second innings, Indian seamer Javagal Srinath, who took five wickets in the first innings, dealt an early blow when he had Wajahatulla Wasti (9) caught behind brilliantly by Nayyan Mongia.

And Srinath was unlucky when Azharuddin dropped Saeed Anwar at slip when he had scored only two.

Both teams earned 5 bonus points each for their performance in the first innings; four bowling points for taking all the wickets within 100 overs and one batting point for scoring between 150 and 224 runs.

SPORTS

in brief

O'Neill breaks 200 butterfly world record

MALMO (Reuters) — Susan O'Neill of Australia broke the women's world short-course 200 meters butterfly record yesterday.

O'Neill clocked two minutes 5.37 seconds at a World Cup meeting to beat the mark of 2:05.65 set by American Mary Meagher in Gainesville on January 2, 1991.

Keegan dominates England rugby training

LONDON (Reuters) — England's preparations for Saturday's Five Nations clash with Scotland were overshadowed yesterday by Kevin Keegan, tipped to be the next manager of the English soccer team.

When the England rugby team turned up for training at a sports complex in south-west London, they found photographers and most of the media more interested in the former Liverpool player who was coaching his club side Fulham on a pluck nearby.

Normally most Fulham training sessions are closed to outsiders but with England's rugby session designated as open to the media, the club was unable to stop the media entering the complex as they hunted for comment from Keegan.

Netanya, Haifa men sparkle in Wingate Fives bowls tourney

By NORMAN SPIRO

Netanya and Haifa registered "Full-Houses" against Ramat Hasharon and Jerusalem respectively with wins in singles, pairs, trips and fours in the second round of the men's Wingate Fives competition this week.

Netanya's Harry Katz had his second successive singles win 25-24 against Herzl Dunsky (Ramat Hasharon). Katz was never ahead in the game trailed 2-12, to peel 24-all at the 29th end and collect the winning shot.

Micha Farkash (Ramat Gan) also recorded his second win, a 25-12 score over Assaf Iron (Savon) while Haifa's Ari Ben-Dor won 25-15 against Moty Dreyfus (Jerusalem) and Moshe Ayoun (Kiryat Ono) had an excellent 25-16 win against Ra'anana's Colin Silberstein.

Pairs: Haifa 27, Jerusalem 15; Savon 22, Ramat Gan 11; Netanya 21, Ramat Hasharon 17; Ra'anana 36, Kiryat Ono 10. (Haifa and Savon are unbeaten.)

Trips: Haifa 26, Jerusalem 13; Savon 18, Ramat Gan 23; Netanya 18, Ramat Hasharon 17; Ra'anana 20, Kiryat Ono 16. (Haifa and Ramat Gan are unbeaten.)

Fours: Haifa 29, Jerusalem 7; Savon 25, Ramat Gan 16; Netanya 32, Ramat Hasharon 20; Ra'anana 37, Kiryat Ono 13. (Haifa and Netanya are unbeaten.)

Haifa head the log with 14 points followed by Netanya and Ramat Gan 12 each.

In the women's singles Tami Kamzel (Ramat Gan) edged out by persistent Avika Nachmias (Netanya) 25-24 for a second successive win - Nachmias again never letting up in a marathon 31/2-hour game of 35 heads.Merle

(Ra'anana) 82%won 25-6 against Miriam Pappenheimer (Haifa) and Ruthie Gilor (Kiryat Ono) beat Chaya Prager (Savon) 25-20.

Pairs: Haifa 19, Netanya 17; Ra'anana 31, Ramat Hasharon 11; Savon 23, Ramat Gan 16.

Trips: Haifa 10, Netanya 21; Ra'anana 18, Ramat Hasharon 17; Savon 10, Ramat Gan 17.

Fours: Ramat Gan 19, Netanya 14; Savon 20, Kiryat Ono 16.

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Peter Guth leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in a semi-staged performance of the greatest opera by Johann Strauss Jr., *Die Fledermaus*, with soloists from the Vienna Staatsoper. Tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Jerusalem International Convention Center with a concert preview at 7:30 p.m.

Italian baroque ensemble Ut Musica Poesia makes its Israeli debut performing music by Salomone Rossi, Frescobaldi and Rognoni tonight at 8:30 p.m., tomorrow at the House of Grace church in Haifa at 9:30 p.m., Saturday at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv at 6 p.m. and Sunday at Kibbutz Mizra at 8:30 p.m.

Clarinetist Blad Avakrat, bassoonist Elinoy Yegor, and pianist Asaf Fire perform music by Beethoven, Hindemith, Schoenberg, Poulenc, Glucka and other composers tomorrow noon at the Jerusalem Music Center.

Avi Ostrovsky leads his Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra in Mozart's 35th Symphony and Schubert's Fourth Symphony, as well as Shostakovich's *From Jewish Folk Poetry* with soloists Svetlana Babajanova, Tamar Zohar and Yevgeni Shapovalov. Saturday at 11 a.m. at Tel Aviv, February 23 in Givat Brenner, and February 25 in Nahariya at 8:30 p.m.

Yaron Prensley leads the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheva in Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* (soloists Larissa Tenev and Susanna Poretsky), Vivaldi's Bassoon Concerto (soloist Alexander Fine) and Johann Christian Bach's Cello Concerto (soloist



Pianist Assaf Fire plays in a noon concert at the Jerusalem Music Center tomorrow.

Yakov Gluzman). Saturday and Monday in Beersheva and February 24 in Eilat, all at 8:30 p.m.

Yuval Ben Ozer leads his New Vocal Ensemble in a program of music by Brahms, Debussy, Purcell, Saint-Saens, Rossini as well as Yehozkel Braun and Shlomo Artzi. Saturday at the Levin Music Center in Jaffa at 8:30 p.m.

And in Tel Aviv, the Bar Kol Choir under Anat Morag performs a special concert of classical music and Israeli songs at the Israel Music Conservatory. Also at 8:30 p.m.

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Beethoven: Romance in F op. 50; Schumann: Fantasies in G op. 73; Mozart: Piano Quartet in G minor K477.
7:07 Schubert: Canon and Gigue in D; Eccles: Suite for the Coronation of Queen Anne; Bach: Cello no. 61; Noyon, conductor: Heiden Heiden; Haydn: Symphony no. 64 in A.
8:05 Works by Dvorak: 4 Romantic Pieces op. 75; Symphony no. 5 in F op. 76; Slavonic PO / Concerto in C; Schubert: Fantasy for Piano 4-Hands D940; Mozart: Requiem; Shostakovich: Violin Concerto no. 1 in B; Byers: The Last Days for 2 Violins; Debussy: Sonata for Violin and Piano; Poulenc: Places for 2 Guitars and Keyboards.
12:00 Noon with Glenn Hod.
14:00 Encore - works by Saymanov and Chopin.
15:00 The Voice of Music Magazine.
16:00 Bach: Trio Sonata in G minor for Flute, Violin and Continuo; Handel: Carmina for Voice, Flute, Guitar and Continuo; Mozart: Concerto in C for Piano and Violin LK303; Bizet: Jeux d'enfants for Piano 4-Hands.

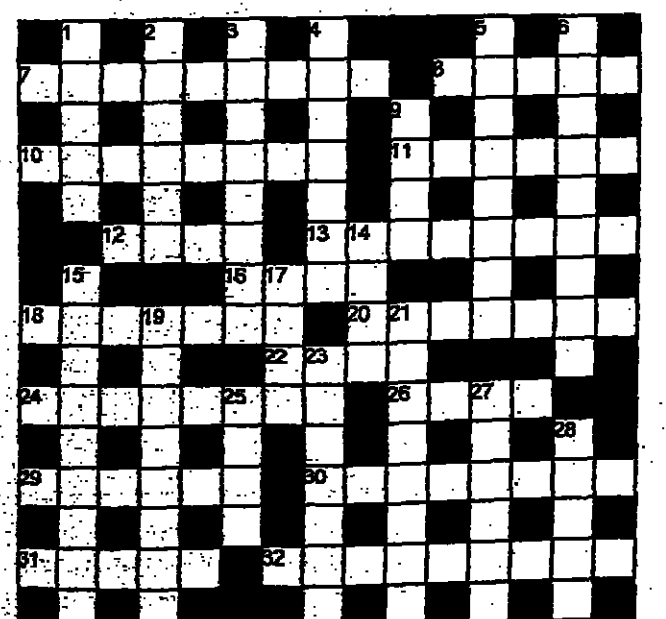
op. 22; Brahms: Piano Quartet in G minor op. 25.
16:00 New CDs - Greg: Piano Concerto in A minor op. 16; Elgar: Falstaff (symphonic study) for Orchestra op. 68 (BBC SO / Decca); Last minute arrivals of new recordings.
20:30 The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra / Peter Guth, conductor. Operatic songs from Wagner's great works by Strauss and Lohner.
23:00 Art of the Song - Songs by troubadours, Benda, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Wagner, Ben-Shabat and Fritzi.

17:00 World News.
17:30 Sports Roundup.
18:00 World News.
18:30 Sports Roundup.
19:00 World News.
19:30 Sports Roundup.
20:00 World News.
20:30 Sports Roundup.
21:00 World News.
21:30 Sports Roundup.
22:00 World News.
22:30 Sports Roundup.
23:00 World News.
23:30 Sports Roundup.

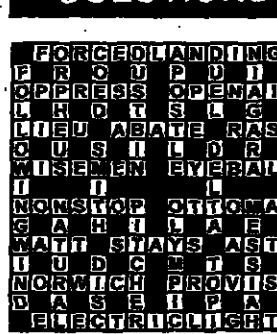
14:00 World News.
14:30 Sports Roundup.
15:00 World News.
15:30 Sports Roundup.
16:00 World News.
16:30 Sports Roundup.
17:00 World News.
17:30 Sports Roundup.
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21:00 World News.
21:30 Sports Roundup.
22:00 World News.
22:30 Sports Roundup.
23:00 World News.
23:30 Sports Roundup.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 7 Find friend a place to eat - it's nice to eat (9)
 - 8 Poke about university, being arrogant (5)
 - 10 Attitude I assume as god (8)
 - 11 Tape - the fastest time to break it? (6)
 - 12 Quickly runs back-to-bowl this? (4)
 - 13 Grabs me about the shoulder-strap (4)
 - 16 Protection from warty (4)
 - 18 Master funds most expensive in Paris (7)
 - 20 Son cuts up mufflers (7)
 - 22 Conservative remains in the money (4)
 - 24 Silver reflected small, soft illumination (3)
 - 26 Sinary sergeant-
- DOWN**
- 1 Joker aboard part of train (5)
 - 2 Create a cosmetic? (4,2)
 - 3 Steps taken to prepare for battle (3,5)
 - 4 British Library given inferior support - bad mistake (7)
 - 5 Scent - gram perhaps with hair? (8)

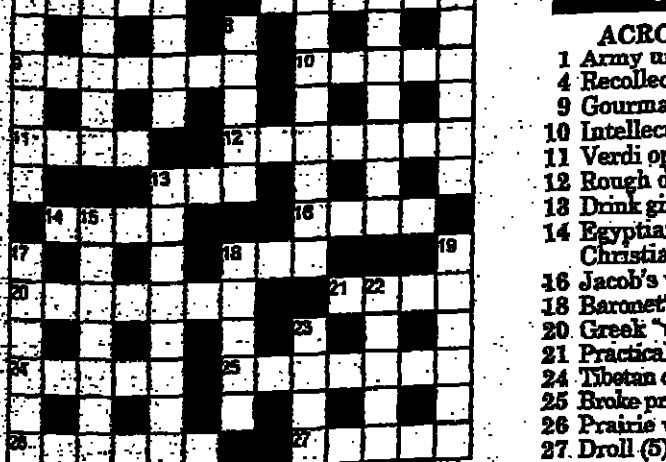


SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS 1 Delle, 4 Widener, 5 Airport, 9 Adina, 10 Kink, 11 Bunch, 12 Cope, 13 Cope, 14 Cope, 15 Cope, 16 Cope, 17 Cope, 18 Cope, 19 Cope, 20 Cope, 21 Cope, 22 Cope, 23 Cope, 24 Cope, 25 Cope, 26 Cope, 27 Cope, 28 Cope, 29 Cope, 30 Cope, 31 Cope, 32 Cope, 33 Cope, 34 Cope, 35 Cope, 36 Cope, 37 Cope, 38 Cope, 39 Cope, 40 Cope, 41 Cope, 42 Cope, 43 Cope, 44 Cope, 45 Cope, 46 Cope, 47 Cope, 48 Cope, 49 Cope, 50 Cope, 51 Cope, 52 Cope, 53 Cope, 54 Cope, 55 Cope, 56 Cope, 57 Cope, 58 Cope, 59 Cope, 60 Cope, 61 Cope, 62 Cope, 63 Cope, 64 Cope, 65 Cope, 66 Cope, 67 Cope, 68 Cope, 69 Cope, 70 Cope, 71 Cope, 72 Cope, 73 Cope, 74 Cope, 75 Cope, 76 Cope, 77 Cope, 78 Cope, 79 Cope, 80 Cope, 81 Cope, 82 Cope, 83 Cope, 84 Cope, 85 Cope, 86 Cope, 87 Cope, 88 Cope, 89 Cope, 90 Cope, 91 Cope, 92 Cope, 93 Cope, 94 Cope, 95 Cope, 96 Cope, 97 Cope, 98 Cope, 99 Cope, 100 Cope.

QUICK CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Army unit (5)
 - 2 About (5)
 - 3 Gourmand (7)
 - 4 Intellect (5)
 - 5 Verdi opera (4)
 - 6 Small wind instrument (7)
 - 7 Over there (6)
 - 8 Egyptian (4)
 - 9 Jacob's twin (4)
 - 10 Barons' title (3)
 - 11 Greek "u" (7)
 - 12 Librarian (7)
 - 13 Broken promise (5)
 - 14 Prankster (5)
 - 15 Droll (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Brandy (5)
 - 2 Badger's burrow (4)
 - 3 Sour (8)
 - 4 Small wind instrument (7)
 - 5 Over there (6)
 - 6 Egyptian (4)
 - 7 Jacob's twin (4)
 - 8 Barons' title (3)
 - 9 Greek "u" (7)
 - 10 Librarian (7)
 - 11 Broken promise (5)
 - 12 Prankster (5)
 - 13 Droll (5)

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TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Apocalypse Then and Now
8:30 In Italian
8:30 Dealing With Dogs
8:30 Psychology
10:00 Sesame Street
10:25 For the very young
11:00 Geography
12:00 History
13:00 Music
13:30 Hanna's Room

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Broken Heart High
16:15 Eilat
16:30 Garden Party
16:30 A New Evening
17:25 Yaron and Other Animals
18:10 Time for Language
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
6:00 On the Edge of the Sea
6:30 The Rainbow Children
6:30 Morning with Gali
6:30 News
6:30 Rishon LeZion
6:30 Falguy
10:00 News
10:00 Today's programs
10:00 On the Edge of the Sea
10:30 The Rainbow Children
10:30 Morning with Gali
10:30 News
10:30 Rishon LeZion
10:30 Falguy
13:00 News
13:00 Today's programs
13:00 On the Edge of the Sea
13:30 The Rainbow Children
13:30 Morning with Gali
13:30 News
13:30 Rishon LeZion
13:30 Falguy
16:00 News
16:00 Today's programs
16:00 On the Edge of the Sea
16:30 The Rainbow Children
16:30 Morning with Gali
16:30 News
16:30 Rishon LeZion
16:30 Falguy
19:00 News
19:00 Today's programs
19:00 On the Edge of the Sea
19:30 The Rainbow Children
19:30 Morning with Gali
19:30 News
19:30 Rishon LeZion
19:30 Falguy
22:00 News
22:00 Today's programs
22:00 On the Edge of the Sea
22:30 The Rainbow Children
22:30 Morning with Gali
22:30 News
22:30 Rishon LeZion
22:30 Falguy
25:00 News
25:00 Today's programs
25:00 On the Edge of the Sea
25:30 The Rainbow Children
25:30 Morning with Gali
25:30 News
25:30 Rishon LeZion
25:30 Falguy

HEBREW PROGRAMS

15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 3 (33)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 4 (44)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 5 (55)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 6 (66)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 7 (77)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 8 (88)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 9 (99)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 10 (100)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 11 (111)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 12 (122)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 13 (133)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 14 (144)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 15 (155)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 16 (166)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 17 (177)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 18 (188)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 19 (199)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 20 (200)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 21 (211)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 22 (222)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 23 (233)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 24 (244)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 25 (255)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 26 (266)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 27 (277)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 28 (288)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 29 (299)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

CHANNEL 30 (300)

15:30 News
15:30 Elections Special
16:30 News
16:30 Basketball last game of the current round - Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Maccabi Netanya at the Rishon LeZion Sports Center
18:30 News
18:30 Time for Language

MIDDLE EAST TV

2:30 700 Club
3:30 TV Shopping
4:30 700 Club
5:30 700 Club
6:30 700 Club
7:30 700 Club
8:30 700 Club
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11:30 700 Club
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93:30 700 Club
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98:30 700 Club
99:30 700 Club
100:30 700 Club

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8:30 News flash
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8:45 Good Morning Israel

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CHANNEL 4 (44)

Pakistan comeback



Page 17

NBA roundup



Page 18

FA springs surprise over Keegan

By MITCH PHILLIPS

LONDON (Reuters) — England's soccer chiefs sprung a major surprise yesterday, naming Kevin Keegan as part-time national team coach in charge only until the end of June.

Keegan will take over from the sacked Glenn Hoddle but will return to his full time job with second division Fulham for next season.

He will be in charge of the England squad for only four matches — three Euro 2000 qualifiers against Poland, Sweden and Bulgaria and a friendly against Hungary.

English FA chief executive David Davies said: "The search for a permanent successor to Glenn Hoddle starts tomorrow."

Keegan, who will give a press conference alongside current caretaker manager Howard Wilkinson today, said he was "absolutely delighted."

"I am committed to Fulham but I believe I can do a successful job for England as well."

Keegan said.

"It will be a great thrill to work with everybody connected with the national team."

The former Liverpool, Hamburg and Newcastle player had become a firm favorite to succeed Hoddle although it seemed the FA were prepared to let him do the job initially on a part-time basis while staying with Fulham for the remainder of this season.

But Keegan, chief operations officer at the London club owned by Egyptian millionaire Mohamed Al Fayed, has a contract there until the end of next season and told the FA he wanted to honor it.

Davies said Keegan had made it clear to the FA he wanted to stick to his task of guiding Fulham into the premier league and did not want to be considered as England coach beyond this June.

"We are thrilled that Kevin is joining the FA even if it is until June," said Davies. "We respect his wish to respect his existing contract."

Davies denied that the decision left

England in limbo and that it was an embarrassment for the FA.

"He was our first choice and he will be leading the team with the full support of the FA and Howard Wilkinson," said Davies. "I know how popular he is with the players in this country but you will have to ask Kevin why he made his decision."

It is by no means the first time Keegan has sprung a surprise. As a player he had the pick of Europe's clubs as a two-time European footballer of the year in 1980 but chose lowly Southampton for his return to England from Hamburg.

During his time as Newcastle manager he went into the club's car park to explain personally to protesting supporters why he had sold striker Andy Cole to Manchester United.

That, and his attacking policy on the field, earned the respect of fans at St James' Park and throughout the country but he then produced the biggest shock of all when he resigned from Newcastle in 1997.

Lawrie McMenemy, who brought Keegan

to Southampton and who now manages Northern Ireland, said: "I am surprised like most people, but Kevin is full of surprises." He added: "It's not satisfactory. Everyone would like him full time but they are prepared to take him on the terms he has laid down until June. What surprises me is it looks as though he does not want it after that."

"It could be his won over. A lot might depend on the reaction of the media."

Bookmakers evidently feel the same way, with William Hill refusing to pay out on Keegan bets but making him 6-4 favorite to take the job permanently.

Keegan's first match in charge of the England team will be a Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland at Wembley on March 27. Hoddle was sacked two weeks ago after making remarks construed as offensive to disabled people.

Wilkinson, the FA's director of football, took over from Hoddle for last week's friendly against France which England lost 2-0 at Wembley.

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THE WEATHER
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ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Friday	High	Low
Ariel	12/52	64/36	12/52	64/36	12/52	64/36
Bethlehem	12/52	64/36	12/52	64/36	12/52	64/36
Dead Sea	24/75	115/30	24/75	115/30	24/75	115/30
Eilat	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Haifa	17/62	105/30	17/62	105/30	17/62	105/30
Jerusalem	17/62	64/36	17/62	64/36	17/62	64/36
Katzen	14/57	54/10	14/57	54/10	14/57	54/10
Nahariya	18/64	105/30	18/64	105/30	18/64	105/30
Tel Aviv	18/64	105/30	18/64	105/30	18/64	105/30
Tiberias	22/71	94/30	22/71	94/30	22/71	94/30

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Friday	High	Low
Ankara	5/35	54/30	5/35	54/30	5/35	54/30
Berlin	3/35	54/30	3/35	54/30	3/35	54/30
Bombay	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Buenos Aires	14/57	54/10	14/57	54/10	14/57	54/10
Calcutta	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Chicago	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Frankfurt	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Hong Kong	21/70	135/50	21/70	135/50	21/70	135/50
Johnsburg	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
London	9/48	74/44	9/48	74/44	9/48	74/44
Los Angeles	22/71	105/30	22/71	105/30	22/71	105/30
Madrid	12/52	25/30	12/52	25/30	12/52	25/30
Mexico City	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Montreal	1/34	70/30	1/34	70/30	1/34	70/30
Moscow	1/34	32/10	1/34	32/10	1/34	32/10
New York	9/48	63/30	9/48	63/30	9/48	63/30
Paris	9/48	32/10	9/48	32/10	9/48	32/10
Prague	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30
Rio de Janeiro	29/84	23/30	29/84	23/30	29/84	23/30
Rome	10/50	37/10	10/50	37/10	10/50	37/10
Sydney	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30	25/77	105/30
Tokyo	17/62	64/36	17/62	64/36	17/62	64/36
Toronto	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30
Vancouver	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30
Warsaw	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30
Washington	9/48	63/30	9/48	63/30	9/48	63/30
Zurich	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30	1/34	42/30

MOON PHASES

Phase	Day
First	Feb 23
Full	Mar 2
Last	Mar 10
New	Mar 17

ISRAEL
All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1999

Netanya 18/10
Tel Aviv 19/10
Jerusalem 17/6
Dead Sea 24/71
Beersheva 19/7
Eilat 25/13

Israel: Breezy and not as warm today with clouds and sun. A shower in a few northern areas. Highs 14-28. Good chance for showers north tomorrow.

EGYPT
Eilat 25/13

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



Manchester United's David Beckham (left) is chased by Arsenal's Nigel Winterburn during their premier league match at Old Trafford last night.

United, Arsenal play out pulsating draw

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United and Arsenal, the two top teams in the English premier league, battled to a pulsating 1-1 draw at a muddy Old Trafford last night.

After Dwight Yorke missed a first half penalty Arsenal went ahead in the 48th minute through Nicolas Anelka. Andy Cole headed the equalizer after an hour and United then missed several chances to win it.

United stay top on 51 points, four clear of Chelsea, who also missed a penalty and conceded a late equalizer in their 1-1 home draw with Blackburn Rovers. Arsenal are third on 46.

Aston Villa lost 2-1 at home to Leeds United while goal-shy Everton stunned Middlesbrough, and their own fans, with a 5-0 victory at Goodison Park.

Newcastle beat Coventry 4-1 while in the League Cup semifinal Leicester drew 1-1 with first division Sunderland to win 3-2 on aggregate and book a place in the Wembley final against Tottenham Hotspur.

Aston Villa's slump continued as Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored in the third minute after a strong run, and in the 32nd with a deflected free kick. The Dutchman also hit a post.

Ricardo Scimeca pulled one back

with a 76th minute header but Villa's title hopes look to have gone.

Chelsea 1, Blackburn Rovers 1
Frank Lebowitz missed an early penalty for Chelsea but Jody Morris put them ahead with a superbly struck 20 meter shot for his first goal of the season a minute before the break.

However, Ashley Ward was left unmarked to head an equaliser six minutes from time for battling Blackburn.

Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli and Blackburn youngster Marlon Brown were sent off after a late clash.

Everton 5, Middlesbrough 0
Goal-shy Everton, with only three goals in their previous 12 home league games, amazingly hit five in one night. They got a dream start when former Middlesbrough midfielder Nick Barnes scored in the first minute and doubled the lead in the 16th.

Olivier Dacourt got the third in the 78th minute. Italian Marco Materazzi the fourth and fellow defender David Unsworth completed a stunning victory with a header. Midfielder Don Hutchinson was inspirational, creating four of the goals.

Newcastle 4, Coventry City 1
Noel Whelan put a Coventry ahead after 18 minutes but hardly

had they finished celebrating when Alan Shearer equalized with a typical run and shot.

Gary Speed and Frenchman Louis Saha early in the second half and Shearer again in the 75th settled it for Ruud Gullit's side.

League Cup semifinal, 2nd leg
Leicester City 1, Sunderland 1
(Leicester win 3-2 on agg.)

First division Sunderland, trailing 2-1 from the first leg, launched an all-out attack and pulled a goal back with a Niall Quinn header in the 34th minute.

But the premier league side hit back with a sharp goal by Tony Cottee and despite plenty of Sunderland pressure Leicester held out.

Leicester play Tottenham Hotspur in the final on March 21 at Wembley — Leicester's sixth appearance there in the last seven years.

SCOTLAND
Norwegian Vidar Riseth sent Celtic into second place in the Scottish premier league as the champions gained a crucial 1-0 victory at home to Kilmarnock.

The international midfielder, who was playing as a central defender because of injury problems, settled the match between the only teams who can stop Rangers winning the title with a 49th minute header from Lubomir

Moravcik's corner.

It was Riseth's second goal since joining Celtic last September. The club move ahead of Kilmarnock into second place with 43 points from 24 games, but 10 points behind Rangers.

Yet Kilmarnock, who remain on 41 points, deserved more from the game with Scotland midfielder Ian Durrant outstanding.

Had Ally McCoist, the former European Golden Boot winner, not struck the post in the 38th minute after Durrant put him clear, the 59,126 crowd at Parkhead might have been silenced.

Premier league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	25	14	9	3	40	28	51
Chelsea	25	12	11	2	36	28	47
Arsenal	25	12	10	3	29	12	46
Aston Villa	25	12	7	6	37	27	43
Leeds United	25	10	9	6	38	25	39
Liverpool	25	11	5	9	47	30	38
Derby County	25	9	10	6	25	22	37
West Ham United	25	10	6	9	27	34	36
Wimbledon	24	9	8	7	29	35	35
Newcastle United	25	9	7	9	33	34	34
Middlesbrough	25	7	11	7	33	36	32
Tottenham Hotspur	24	7	10	7	29	31	31
Leicester City	24	7	9	9	25	29	30
Sheffield Wednesday	24	8	5	11	27	23	29
Everton	25	6	10	9	27	37	27
Blackburn Rovers	25	6	11	8	24	32	26
Coventry City	25	6	4	15	24	34	24
Charlton Athletic	25	5	8	12	29	37	23
Southampton	24	5	5	14	23	47	20
Nottingham Forest	25	3	7	15	21	51	16

Cantona voted United's greatest

LONDON (Reuters) — Frenchman Eric Cantona, who led Manchester United to two English FA Cup and League doubles in 1994 and 1996, has been voted the greatest player in the club's 107-year history.

Cantona, 32, who retired at the end of the 1996-97 season to pursue a career in acting, pipped George Best into second place with Ryan Giggs third.

The poll among United's fans was organized by Manchester United's official club magazine *United*, the highest selling soccer magazine in Britain.

Manager Alex Ferguson told the magazine: "He (Cantona) was the catalyst for the championships. He brought a vision that we did not have before. He was an absolutely phenomenal player."

Giggs said: "He was the best footballer I have ever seen," while Denis Law, who finished 10th in the voting and has for three decades been known as "The King of Old Trafford" added: "I can't think of anyone who I would rather wear my crown."

Cantona scored 80 goals in 182 appearances for United between October 1992 and 1997 and won the nomination despite his notorious assault on a racist fan when Manchester United played Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park in January 1995.

The attack, when he leapt over the barrier to launch a kung-fu kick at a Palace fan, earned him a record eight-month suspension, but his return in October 1995 inspired United to the double the following May.

He scored the winning goal in the FA Cup Final against Liverpool to secure the club's second double in three seasons.

The mercurial Frenchman was a member of the Leeds team that won the title in 1992 before moving to United.

His honours at Old Trafford also include the title in 1993 and 1997, three Charity Shield victories and being named England's Footballer of the Year in 1996.

The remainder of the top 10 comprises Bobby Charlton in fourth place, Bryan Robson fifth, Duncan Edwards sixth, Peter Schmeichel seventh, David Beckham eighth, Mark Hughes ninth and Denis Law 10th.

Of the current side playing for United, Andy Cole was voted 15th, Roy Keane 17th, Paul Scholes 18th, Dwight Yorke 21st, Denis Irwin 24th, Gary Neville 28th, Phil Neville 46th, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer 48th and Jaap Stam 50th.

Confident Australians head to West Indies

SYDNEY (Reuters) — The Australian cricket team left Sydney for the Caribbean yesterday, cautiously optimistic of beating the once mighty West Indians on home soil for the second time in succession.

New captain Steve Waugh is confident his side can topple the Calypso Kings but has warned his players not to allow West Indies' poor recent form to make them over-confident.

"It's the first time I can remember that an Australian team has gone to the West Indies as favorites," Waugh said before the team's departure. "We've had plenty of beatings from West Indies over the years but we don't want to go over there thinking we're going to give these blokes a hiding."

"We want to go over there thinking we're going to play good cricket and if we do that we're going to beat them. If it's 1-0, that's fine, 2-1 is okay to me, 4-0 would be great, but that's probably hoping for a bit too much."

The only time West Indies have lost a series at home in the last 26 years was in 1995 when Mark Taylor's men beat them to regain the Frank Worrell Trophy.

Their previous defeat at home, against any nation, was also against Australia, in 1973.

The 1995 series signalled a remarkable change in the fortunes of both teams. As Australia went on to establish themselves as the best side in the world, West Indies slumped to rock bottom.

They have won each of their series' at home since losing to Australia four years ago, but have a dreadful record away from their own shores, underlined by their recent 5-0 drubbing in South Africa.

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